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MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1990/SHA'ABAN 8, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Moves to persuade Iraq to reverse decision

Arab Times report

KUWAIT, March 4: Uncertainty prevailed today over the Iraqi withdrawal from the 10th Arab Gulf Football tournament.

The president of the Kuwait Football Association and chairman of the organising committee of the tournament, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad confirmed today that the organising committee received the official decision of the Iraqi withdrawal.

drawal.

Speaking to reporters after presiding over a meeting of the heads of the participating delegations, Sheikh Fahd said that the committee also received an official protest from the Iraqi delegation over their match with UAE. He added that the protest was referred to the technical committee of the tournament which will hold a meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the Iraqi protest. Iraq surprisingly attended today's meeting.

The Iraqi Football Federation said last night that they were withdrawing from the Gulf soccer tournament in protest against refereeing in their match against the United Arab Emirates. They were particularly critical of the referee's expulsion of their veteran defender, Adnan Derjal, which forced the Iraqis to play the whole second half with only 10 players.

Sheikh Fahd hinted that there were some contacts going on with Iraq to reverse its withdrawal decision, but rejected claims that Iraq was being under pressure.

"We don't put any pressure on any one and contacts between friendly countries never stop," Sheikh Fahd stressed. He also hoped that the Gulf cup competitions will continue.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi team which was supposed to leave Kuwait for Iraq today has not left. According to unconfirmed reports the Iraqi team had a training session today at the Qadsia stadium.

Iraq's next scheduled match was on March 7.

Sheikh Fahd said the heads of delegations will hold another meeting on March 6.

The Iraqis indicated that Saudi Arabia plans to organise a rival soccer tournament for the region.

The Iraqi Football Federation headed

..(Continued on Page 20)

Talks on hostages

DAMASCUS, March 4, (AP): A senior Iranian envoy, the brother of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, today discussed efforts to free Western hostages held in Lebanon with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara, an informed source reported.

The source said the meeting between Mahmoud Hashemi and Sharara "appears to be to coordinate efforts between the governments of Syria and Iran to gain the release of all the hostages" held by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militants in Lebanon.

He said Hashemi delivered "a very cordial message" to Sharara from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, including an invitation for him to visit Tehran to meet with Rafsanjani and Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Egyptian bid

CAIRO, March 4, (AP): Egypt has launched a diplomatic effort to move the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League back to Cairo from Tunis amid fears of strong objections by some Arab countries, diplomatic sources reported today.

One Arab diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said Egyptian envoys to all Arab states, urging them to support such a move, to be met by Egyptian Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis yesterday.

Gerard Blitz dies

PARIS, March 4, (Reuters): The founder of France's club Mediterranean Holiday Company, Gerard Blitz, died overnight of a heart attack after a long illness, his family said today.

Blitz founded what was to become one of the world's most successful tourist enterprises in 1950 when he set up a non-profit organisation to house holidaymakers in beach tents.

Doctors strike

DHAKA, March 4, (AP): Some 18,000 doctors walked off their jobs today throughout Bangladesh, crippling health services, the Doctor's Association said.

United News of Bangladesh said the strike was complete in all major towns.

Weather

FAIR weather with light northwesterly changing to light variable wind.
State of sea: Slight
High water: 1.00 am, 5.00 pm
Low water: 1.00 am, 12.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.09 am
Sunset: 5.50 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 26°C 77°F
Abu Dhabi: 23°C 73°F
Dubai: 24°C 75°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 11°C 52°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Dubai: 15°C 59°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 29°C 84°F
Abu Dhabi: 25°C 77°F
Dubai: 24°C 75°F
Minimum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 17°C 63°F
Abu Dhabi: 16°C 61°F
Dubai: 18°C 64°F

Premier discusses democratic formula

Meeting with former deputies frank

KUWAIT, March 4, (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah last night met a number of former deputies as part of consultations with citizens on national issues.

Sheikh Saad said the discussions focused on a formula to the failure of the (previous) democratic practice.

HH the Amir, dissolved the Parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. He cited a foreign conspiracy to destroy the state.

The Amir in January called for a dialogue on national issues.

Sheikh Saad first met the former deputies on Feb 7. Ahmed Saddoun, speaker of the dissolved Assembly said then that the Crown Prince showed great keenness to make that meeting a success.

He declined to comment on yesterday's meeting but said former deputies would meet to assess the latest talks.

Sheikh Saad hailed the positive atmosphere which prevailed at the meeting and the frankness and clearness with which all ideas and opinions tabled on all aspects of the former parliamentary experiment and reasons for its stumbling were discussed.

The Crown Prince expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the views expressed to him during his continuous meetings with the citizens and pointed to their importance in crystallising a suitable formula.

Sheikh Saad affirmed his intention to continue such meetings with all spheres of the Kuwaiti society and hope that they would result in ensuring the national interest under leadership of HH the Amir.

Israeli ministers revolt over talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 4, (Reuters): Cabinet ministers of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party publicly rebelled today against a US call for a quick Israeli decision on opening historic talks with the Palestinians.

The open battle inside Likud, the dominant partner in Israel's coalition government, undermined earlier reports that Shamir was ready to approve Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

See Page 7

Filipino Brig killed: troops rout gunmen



Aguinaldo raises his rifle and clenched fist as his supporters cheered him outside the hotel before he fled. (Reuter wirephoto)

Rebel gov escapes

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines, March 4, (UPI): A rebellious governor seized a hotel before dawn today and allegedly killed a high-ranking military officer, then escaped when government troops routed his gunmen from the building nine hours later in an assault that left at least 19 people dead, official said.

Renegade Cagayan provincial governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo, whose 200-man force seized the downtown Hotel Delfino in an unsuccessful attempt to lead an uprising against President

Corazon Aquino, was being pursued, the military said.

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa issued orders late today to get Aguinaldo "dead or alive."

Aguino's local government secretary, Luis Santos, who escaped from the hotel, said he had seen Aguinaldo shoot Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, 52, the armed forces' civil relations chief, who was taken hostage by Aguinaldo's forces in the hotel.

Aguino had dispatched San-



Florendo

Resignation blow to Thatcher

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): In a fresh blow to beleaguered Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the lone "liberal" in her cabinet today announced plans to resign and opinion polls showed her Conservative government was more unpopular than ever.

Thatcher already faced mounting protests over a new tax to finance local councils which will squeeze family budgets hit by high interest rates and inflation of nearly eight per cent.

Welsh Secretary Peter Walker, a minister since Thatcher came to power in 1979, said he would leave the government before the next general election because he wanted to spend more time with his family and concentrate on business.

His decision was not unexpected but its timing was likely to bolster opposition charges that the government is in disarray and out of touch with even its own supporters.

Walker, 57, has differed with Thatcher over policy during stints in charge of Agriculture, the Environment and Energy but he is regarded as one of the government's most seasoned and experienced ministers.

An ICM opinion poll in the Sunday Correspondent newspaper said the opposition Labour Party led the ruling Conservatives in popularity by 19 percentage points, the biggest gap in 20 years.

GCC prepares for first talks with EEC

NICOSIA, March 4, (Reuters): Foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) began talks in Saudi Arabia today to prepare for the first joint meeting with their European Economic Community (EEC) counterparts.

Economic relations between the GCC and the EEC, its biggest trading partner, have been strained over quota and tariff restrictions on the Gulf's cheaper petrochemical products.

Foreign ministers of both groups are due to meet in Oman on March 17 to discuss how to narrow a trade imbalance that reached \$4.4 billion dollars in the EEC's favour in 1988.

"This meeting comes at a dangerous time, when the world is witnessing important changes which requires serious work from GCC countries," Qatar news agency quoted Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Youssef Bin Alawi, as saying in an opening speech.

Alawi said the GCC ministers needed intensive discussions to prepare a common position ahead of the meeting with their European counterparts.



Protest

A Muslim protestor with his child dressed in shroud is among the demonstrators outside the United Nations military observers office in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state on Thursday before the bloody clashes between protesters and security men in which at least 60 people were killed. (Reuter wirephoto)

(See Page 2)

V.P. Singh quits as party chief

NEW DELHI, March 4, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh has resigned as the president of his Janata Dal party to keep his promise not to hold two public posts, a party spokesman said.

Spokesman Jaipal Reddy told reporters Singh resigned late yesterday at a party meeting called to discuss alleged rigging by a top party leader during a Feb 27 by-election.

Om Prakash Chauthala, the chief minister of Haryana state and a Janata Dal candidate in the by-election, was accused of inciting violence and widespread vote fraud.

During revoting Feb 28, violence erupted that killed 13 people and Chauthala, was blamed.

New Delhi newspapers said today that Singh threatened to quit as Janata Dal president if the party failed to procure Chauthala's resignation.

Reddy denied the prime minister's resignation was linked with the Chauthala controversy. He said Singh's decision was in line with his repeated declarations that he would not hold two offices.

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ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo KD 250 must be won

Coupon for Game No. 76 appears on Page 11. Last date for sending entries is March 12 and numbers will be drawn from March 14.

PRIZES

Four Corners	KD 25
Top Line	KD 25
First Full House	KD 100
Second Full House	KD 60
Third Full House	KD 40

Russians vote in key republics

MOSCOW, March 4, (UPI): Soviet voters jammed polls in the nation's three major republics today in elections Mikhail Gorbachev called a "people's referendum on perestroika."

The elections represent the second stage of the Soviet leader's democratic reforms that began last year with the emergence of a largely freely elected national parliament.

Sunday's multicandidate elections offered voters choices among Russian nationalists, orthodox communists and radical reformers. In some places, up to 20 candidates vied for one spot.

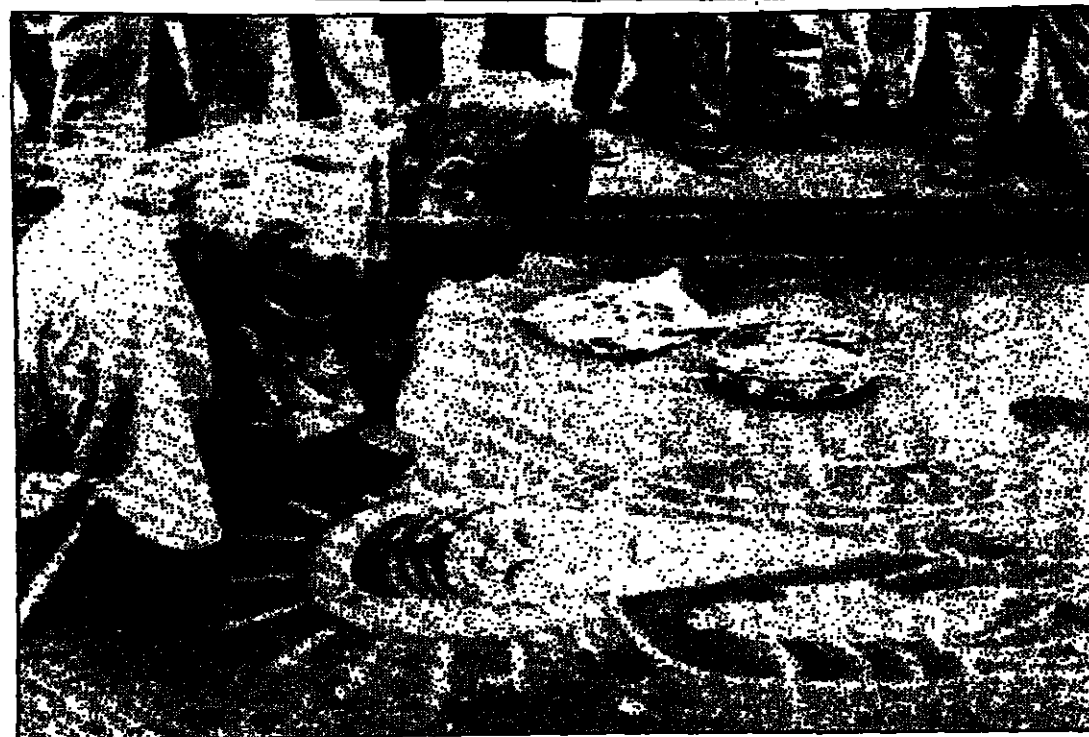
"The essence is that it is a people's referendum on perestroika," Gorbachev told reporters.

"I do hope people will come forward and take greater responsibility for themselves," he said. (See Page 6)



Yeah, it's a giant

Mongolian Prime Minister Dumaagiin Sodnom (right) chats with Hawaiian sumo wrestler Konishiki as the prime minister visits the Sumo stable to see wrestlers practise before leaving for home yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Artwork done with elbows

Working only with his elbows, Nambhai Suryavanshi, painstakingly chalks out an image of the Hindu deity Sai Baba on a Bombay sidewalk as passers-by throw coins on his artwork. Suryavanshi, 50, lost his forearms in a dynamite accident 25 years ago and makes daily sketches of Hindu gods and saints on the pavement to make a living. (Reuter wirephoto)

Internal crisis blown over

Janata requests Meham repoll

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 4: In the aftermath of the ugly poll violence witnessed during the assembly by-election in Meham, the Janata Dal was thrown briefly into an internal crisis that at one stage threatened to make a dent in its unity at the top.

But the crisis seemed to have blown over today with the party, in an unprecedented move, recommending to the election commission a repoll in the entire constituency after a meeting of its political affairs committee.

The recommendation for the repoll was conveyed to Chief Election Commissioner R.V.S.

Peri Sastry by Prime Minister V.P. Singh himself. This was followed up by a formal letter from the party to the commission.

But the election commission has yet to make up its mind, making it known today that a decision on the repoll would be taken only after its own fact-finding team visited the constituency and came to some conclusions. The team's visit has not taken place yet because of the tense situation in Meham since Feb 28 when several people were killed in violence during a repoll in some polling stations.

Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala is seeking election to the state assembly from Meham. His main rival is a Jan-

ata Dal rebel candidate, Anand Singh Danghi.

There were serious allegations of rigging and intimidation of voters on the day of polling, Feb 27, after which the election commission ordered a repoll in several booths the next day. On Feb 28, all hell seemed to have broken loose in some parts of the constituency and at least ten people were reported killed, though unofficial reports put the toll at a much higher figure.

The main allegation was that the mobs went on the rampage at the behest of Chautala himself. The chief minister is also alleged to have used the local police and official machinery to intimidate voters and rig the election.

Jagmohan said he had been told various militant groups were considering giving up arms and pursuing the democratic process. Militant groups have called previously only for the chance to decide themselves whether to become independent or join mostly Muslim Pakistan, which also controls part of the Kashmir region. Recently they have demanded only independence as a neutral state.

Jagmohan has conceded that the previous state elections in Jammu-Kashmir, held in 1987, were rigged by the governing National Conference Party and its ally, the Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv's successor, Prime Minister V.P. Singh, sacked the state government in January, three years before its term was to expire, and brought it under tight

Governor offers new elections

Troops continue raids on Kashmir hideouts

SRINAGAR, March 4. (AP) The governor of India's strife-torn Kashmir territory said today that new elections could be held within six months but banned demonstrations by the increasingly restive Muslim secessionists.

Security forces continued raids on suspected militant hideouts in the northern state wracked by clashes between the pro-independence Muslims rebelling against a government crackdown by thousands of soldiers.

At least 163 people have been killed in India's Jammu-Kashmir state, which includes the Kashmir territory, since the government crackdown began Jan 20 following escalating protests, bombings and attacks on state officials.

"From our side, we are willing to go for a democratic process to decide who should rule the state," said Gov Jagmohan.

"But the democratic process now depends on those who are terrorising people," he said, referring to the Muslim militants who demand Jammu-Kashmir's independence from predominantly Hindu India.

The militants boycotted November's national parliamentary elections and forced residents in Kashmir to stay away from the polls.

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Iran condemns 'massacre'

NICOSIA, March 4. (Reuter) Iran's Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karrubi accused India today of "massacring" Muslims in Kashmir. Karrubi, speaking in Parliament, said the Indian government could not solve the Kashmir problem by violence and killing. His remarks were reported by Tehran Radio and monitored by the BBC.

"Karrubi condemned the massacre of the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir... he expressed his regret and sorrow over the Indian government's treatment of the Kashmiri Muslims, describing it as irrational and inhuman."

"Karrubi advised the Indian government to deal with the issue of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslims in a rational and judicious manner, saying the problem would not be resolved through violence and killing," the radio reported.

ter federal control through the governor's rule.

On Sunday, paramilitary police and soldiers raided homes of separatist sympathisers and arrested 86 people in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir, state officials said.

State police sources said at least 150 people have been detained for interrogation in the latest crackdown that began on Friday.

Srinagar, a city of one million people and the hotbed of the militant movement, remained under curfew today for a third straight day. Paramilitary troops patrolled the streets with orders to shoot curfew violators on sight.

The curfew was reimposed on Friday after a pro-independence demonstration on Thursday in Srinagar attended by hundreds of thousands. Some estimates said one million people took part, including thousands from neighbouring towns.

Police reportedly opened fire on marchers in at least two incidents, killing more than 40 people, according to witnesses and hospital officials.

"We had relaxed curfew and had allowed people free movement but see what happened," Jagmohan said, referring to Thursday's procession.

He said people were allowed out Thursday to celebrate a local festival.



Buddhist priests lead a crowd of 1,000 peace marchers in Kandy. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sri Lankans march for peace

Premadasa may dissolve NE provincial council

COLOMBO, March 4. (Agencies) Sri Lankan President, Ranasinghe Premadasa, is likely to dissolve any time now the North-East provincial council of the island, political sources said today.

This follows the declaration on Thursday by the council's Chief Minister, Varatharaja Perumal, the establishment of the state Tamil 'Eelam' in north-western Sri Lanka.

The Tamils in the north and east are living in uncertainty as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most feared militant Tamil group, has taken over the districts vacated by the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF). The question now being

asked in political circles is what the LTTE will do after the IPKF totally vacates the north-east by March 31, 1990.

More than 1,000 people, dressed in white and led by drum-beating monks, marched through central Sri Lanka today calling for peace on the war-ravaged island.

An organiser of the march, A.T. Ariyaratne, said participants represented all of Sri Lanka's religious and ethnic groups and came from all parts of the country.

"In these times of war, when people are tortured and killed, when the fear element is strong, we want to remove this fear psychosis," he said.

He said all separatist groups, including police and prison service officers, supported the new council of state. He said citizens, businessmen and security officers had lost confidence in Sebe's government.

"The continued sound of celebration on this day is ample proof of this," Gqozo said.

Human rights monitoring groups say at least 700 people have been detained in the homeland this year, and about 200 were still in detention.

"It's unfortunate that the former president is still abroad. We will await his return and shall endeavour to ensure his safety," Gqozo said.

Sebe's ambassador to South Africa, Mxolisi Mesatya, said Sebe had been informed about the coup but was not expected to return to Africa immediately.

Sebe, 63, founded a security police force and led the 9,000-square-kilometre (3,600-square-miles) territory on the southern coast of Africa to independent status in 1981. A commission found the majority of residents opposed losing their South African citizenship, and Pretoria is the only government that recognises Ciskei's sovereignty.

Gqozo gave no details about the coup, but journalists in Ciskei said it took place at 4 am (0200 GMT). Twenty soldiers occupied Radio Ciskei at about 9 am (0700 GMT) when Gqozo read his statement, saying no one had been killed or injured.

In Bisho, the Ciskei capital, thousands of people began impromptu celebratory marches.

The cabinet reportedly was under house arrest.

Gqozo read a list of grievances against President Lesetja Sebe, who was on a trade mission to Hong Kong when the coup occurred, according to his aides.

The coup leader cited widespread violence in the Xhosa homeland, detentions of citizens, corruption, deteriorating education and health services.

"The final straw... was the action of the previous president

who, despite the grave situation in the Ciskei, saw fit to leave the country when it most needed strong, fair and democratic leadership," Gqozo said.

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Memento of historical trip

Willy Brandt, West German SPD chairman gave a speech to Weimar citizens. Willy Brandt is on election campaign tour to East Germany, as a memento of his historical trip to Erfurt 20 years ago. (Reuter wirephoto)

Rebel governor escapes

(Continued from Page 1)

tos and Florendo to Tuguegarao, 220 miles (350 km) north of Manila, to arrest Aguinaldo, 41, a former constabulary colonel indicted on Tuesday for rebellion in connection with the bloody Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

De Villa said Florendo was unarmed and was shot and killed at close range.

At least 19 others, mostly rebels, were killed and scores of civilians were wounded in the gunfire in and around the hotel, regional military spokesman Willie Custodio said. Local officials broadcast appeals for blood donations.

Santos, two town mayors and at least three other senior military officials trapped in the hotel escaped unhurt after the pre-dawn takeover by Aguinaldo and his force of 200 hill tribesmen and rebel returnees.

Acting on orders from Aquino to quell the uprising swiftly, loyalist forces mounted an assault at mid-afternoon, scattering Aguinaldo's men deployed in streets leading to the hotel.

The troops tossed tear-gas canisters to disperse some 2,000 pro-Aguinaldo demonstrators in front of the hotel and battled the rebels inside the four-storey building.

By nightfall, 112 of Aguinaldo's men surrendered and 89 others were captured. They were disarmed and spread-eagled in front of the building. Those who surrendered included 12 soldiers who defected today and joined Aguinaldo.

Regional commander Col Miguel Fontanilla said Aguinaldo abandoned his men and fled to the northern mountains aboard an ambulance.

"Some of our people are pursuing him," Fontanilla said. Sporadic gunfire could still be heard in the dusty provincial capital with a population of 90,000 as loyalist forces conducted mopping up operations.

Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a former defence minister who helped oust former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, was one of those indicted along with Aguinaldo and five other people last week in connection with the December coup attempt.

Aquino, in a statement in Manila, denounced the slaying of Florendo as an "act of treachery and cowardice."

"We will see that the fullest force of the law is meted out," Aquino said. "I call on all our people to continue to reject violence and uphold our constitutional democracy."

Aguinaldo struck before dawn, occupying the hotel, which had 54 guests, and deploying his forces around the building. Florendo had told reporters he was on his way to breakfast when he met Aguinaldo, who told him he was a "prisoner of war."

Santos and the other officers were alerted and held Aguinaldo's men to a standoff. "It's an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation," Santos said at one point in a radio interview from the second floor of the hotel. "We are few, but they are going to have a hard time. The majesty of the law will be upheld... It might cost us our lives of course."



Air force men carry the body of Philippine Army Brigadier-General Oscar Florendo, killed in Tuguegarao when rebel Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo and 600 followers took him hostage after seizing a hotel. The military said Aguinaldo's men shot Florendo. (Reuter wirephoto)



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٢٤٥٠٤٠٠ / ٢٤٥٠٥٠٠

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1990



Keeping 'em busy

A Chinese soldier gives free haircuts to children yesterday on a Beijing street to celebrate the spirit of 'Lei Feng'. Lei Feng, a model worker and socialist super-hero popular during the Cultural Revolution, has made a comeback with resurgence of hardline policies in China. His example is used as a tool to get people to work harder and follow the socialist path. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

OLYMPIA, Washington: Who will speak appreciatively for the purple loosestrife?

Nobody in his right mind, one weed expert said Monday after the Washington state senate approved legislation to kill the bushy garden flower with herbicides and ban its sale or use. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

"It's a nightmare spreading across Washington," Rick Johnson said of the European weed, which is choking wetlands across the northern United States. Johnson is Thurston County's notorious-weed control co-ordinator.

Each stalk of the plant contains maybe a million seeds, 800,000 of which are viable.

The bill provides one million dollars to eradicate purple loosestrife. Other states have banned or placed restrictions on its sale. (AP)

PETAL, Mississippi: Some American students hope they will make the right moves during a trip to the Soviet Union next month.

Ten students from Petal Middle School, ages 11 to 13, will participate in a special checkers tournament during the international peace conference.

The trip is the idea of Charles Walker, founder and director of the International Checkers Hall of Fame in Petal, a small town near Hattiesburg.

During their two-week trip, the students also will attend the Pioneer Palace School for the gifted in Moscow.

The wife of the director of the Russian Draughts Association teaches at the Pioneer Palace School, which sponsors the annual peace conference. This is how the union of peace was born between the British game of draughts—and the Russian version of draughts, said Carolyn Lucas, secretary of the International Checkers Hall of Fame.

Canadians
Sun revolves around Earth

MONTREAL, March 4, (Kuna): Five centuries after Galileo Galilei risked his life to prove that the sun does not revolve around the Earth, more than 15 per cent of Canadians still think that it does.

And almost one half of Canadians do not know that it takes one year for the Earth to go around the sun.

A survey on the scientific knowledge of Canadians asked basic questions of 2,000 people across the country.

About four in 10 do not know or do not accept that humans evolved from the ape. And about half think that humans, who have only existed for 5,000,000 years, once lived side by side with the dinosaur which became extinct 65 million years ago.

"How depressing," said Dr. Rose Sheiner, vice-rector for academic affairs at Concordia University in Montreal. The survey also pinpoints two groups of Canadians who are particularly ignorant—French Canadians and women in general.

CHANDLER, Arizona: Members of the rock group Aerosmith now shun drugs but will not use the stage to deliver anti-drug messages to teenagers, lead singer Steven Tyler says.

"I will never go up on a soapbox and preach to the kids, I don't do, don't do, don't do," Tyler said in an interview before a scheduled Wednesday night concert.

"I can only say I don't get started on drugs and try them because it'll

get you, grab you by the scruff of the neck just when you think it's your best friend... and it'll kill you."

"You only get three choices when you take drugs and that's jail, death or insanity. I can assure them that. So when I do articles and interviews, I talk about my past drug experiences with needles, almost dying and how fortunate I am to come out of it and be sane and still have my wits about me somewhat."

Boston-based Aerosmith is enjoying huge success with the album "Pump" only a few years after Tyler, guitarist Joe Perry and Brad Whitford, drummer, Joe

Filmmaker McDonald is dead

NEW YORK, March 4, (AP): Award-winning filmmaker Robert L. McDonald, who also was credited with holding the Perry Ellis design house together after its founder's death, has died of AIDS at age 45.

McDonald died at his home in Manhattan Friday night.

He was executive producer for two films that won Academy Award nominations: "It's So Nice to Have a Wolf Around the House" in 1978, and "Split Cherry Tree" in 1982. "All Summer and a Day" received a Golden Eagle in 1982.

He received other honours for films created for use in school study programmes.

McDonald is survived by his mother, Margaret Carroll.

Kramer and bassist Tom Hamilton required treatment for drug dependency.

"We climbed out of this huge hole we'd dug ourselves and makes us feel a whole lot better about ourselves, our music and the way we produce it," said Tyler. "Fortunately for us, it shows in the last two albums so well." (AP)

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut: Paul Newman is heading back to court for another trial to decide whether a dressmaker owner deserves a cut of the profits from Newman's own salad dressing.

James Gold claims he was promised 6 per cent of the profits for helping develop and market the dressing. But Newman, who lives in Westport, contends he developed the dressing in his home and decided the profits should go to charity.

The first trial, in 1988, ended in a mistrial because jurors inadvertently were given material ruled inadmissible. Newman testified at the trial, at one point pounding a bottle of his dressing on the stand.

Jury selection begins March 7 in the second trial. (AP)

FORT WORTH, Texas: A judge who wants to hold a jail house party is sure the well-heeled will pay \$100 each for the chance to stay overnight in the jail.

"For one night, we could be operating the largest hotel in the city," said Tarrant County Judge Roy English who proposed a sleep-over party in the 1,400-bed jail at a session Monday of the county commissioners court.

The party would show off the new jail, built to ease overcrowding, and raise money for a worthy cause either a memorial to slain Tarrant County police officers, or a charity such one that helps the homeless, English said.

Sheriff Don Carpenter said he was seen too many jail interiors to play to get into one, but he likes the idea of showing off the building.

Much work remains to end sexism: UN

UNITED NATIONS, March 4, (AP): The debt crisis gripping countries around the world poses dire conditions for women and creates a somber outlook for efforts to wipe out sex discrimination and exploitation, UN experts and activists say.

The observance of International Women's Day on March 8 and related activities worldwide will focus attention on equal rights for men and women.

Even though experts say there has been progress since the UN "Decade for Women" from 1976 to 1985 highlighted the gender gap and related problems, they paint a dismal picture of the situation in many nations.

"There has been some progress worldwide in life expectancy for women, declines in infant mortality and improvements in nutrition," said Vivian Lowery Derryck, president of the African-American Institute in New York. "But when you get to the equality issues, the picture is starkly gloomy."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a special address to mark International Women's Day, plans to call for a renewed global commitment to improve conditions for women.

"The problems we are facing cannot be resolved by the efforts of only half the population of the globe," the UN chief says in the prepared statement. "Both

men and women must work together as equal partners in order to ensure a sustainable future for the generation to come."

The UN commission on the status for women will conclude a two-week session in Geneva this Friday that has concentrated on political and economic obstacles facing women. It gave special attention to areas affected by armed conflicts or foreign intervention.

Despite heightened attention to the problems, recent UN reports stress there is much more to be done.

"Poor women have become poorer, more women are poor, and women are now poorer in relation to men," one UN

report says. "Through their hard work they try to ensure the survival of the poorest segments of the population, but at great cost to themselves."

"This drain on women's time, resources and energy also inhibits their ability to participate in political life and hence in having an influence in changing the policies which affect them so adversely."

Economic problems also have diminished opportunities for young women, particularly in Latin America and Africa, the report says.

"The crisis has diminished educational and economic opportunities for young women, thus affecting their future ability to contribute to society on an equal basis

with men," it says.

Deteriorating economic conditions have forced women to turn to begging, prostitution and other "quasi-legal and illicit activities" in India, Peru and several African nations, according to a Unicef survey.

A Unicef-sponsored study on Mexico found that the economic crisis had worsened conditions for women, particularly in rural areas. Because families could no longer survive intact in the countryside, young women were forced to migrate to find work.

The Unicef report said women were pulled off the land to work as day labourers.

Deplorable conditions

Space data storage

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of tapes containing irreplaceable scientific data from US space explorations are stored in "deplorable" conditions, including dusty hallways and leaky basements, the General Accounting Office said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration took strong exception to the GAO, saying the conclusions were "unnecessarily harsh" in tone and contained unfounded "sweeping generalizations."

The GAO, an investigative agency of Congress, in turn rejected NASA's criticism and said there was reason for concern that space science data stored on magnetic tape was "at serious risk of becoming partially or completely unusable."

The congressional monitors said they had visited 10 tape storage and processing facilities and had found that eight did not comply with at least two of the regulations established by the national archives and records administration for the handling of magnetic tapes.

The GAO said that "some of the most significant tape management deficiencies" were found in the two largest facilities.

These two are the National Space Science Data Centre at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, which stores more than 113,000 magnetic tapes, and the tape staging and storage facility in Landover, Maryland, which stores tapes and tracks more than 860,000 tapes.

By contrast, it said the US Geological Survey's Eros Data Centre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the Digital Equipment Corp.'s data protection services in Dominguez Hills, California, were in full or partial compliance with federal standards and industry guidelines.

Other facilities visited were the national archives' Los Angeles Federal Records Centre in Laguna Niguel, California, and its Washington National

Records Centre, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Washington, the multi-mission image processing facility of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the infrared processing and analysis Centre of the California Institute of Technology, both in Pasadena, California, and the centre for Astrophysics and Space Sciences of the University of California in La Jolla, California.

In a summary of its findings, the GAO said, "hundreds of thousands of tapes containing space science data are stored under deplorable conditions."

It said five of the facilities, storing almost 500,000 of the 1.2 million tapes from NASA missions, complies with not more than half of the federal standards and industry guidelines.

"These facilities did not have adequate temperature and humidity control, fire protection, water protection or tape maintenance," the congressional agency said. "In some instances, GAO found tapes stored in hallways, basements, and dusty warehouses not designed for tape storage. For example, on one major facility, GAO found nearly 300,000 tapes packed in boxes covered by dust and stacked on shipping pallets."

The GAO did not say which conditions were found at which facilities.

In one place, the agency said, it found more than 4,000 tapes stored in a dirty basement that had been flooded in 1985, submerging approximately the upper half of some of the tapes and leaving a film of debris on them.

In addition to criticising the tapes' storage, the GAO charged that NASA "has not performed an agency-wide inventory of its magnetic tapes and, consequently, does not know what data are retained, or may have been lost, nor can it easily identify or retrieve tapes being stored in its centres or at universities."

Bonfire of the vanities
Trump saga goes on...

NEW YORK, March 4, (Reuters): Trump, Trump, Trump. The endless march of publicity on Donald Trump's marital break-up shows no signs of slowing.

But the latest twist has New Yorkers wondering if it all isn't just a publicity stunt for the billionaire's latest preoccupations — a girlfriend and a new casino.

Don't think that three weeks after the news of the split between Trump and his Czechoslovak fashion model wife, Ivana, you can now pick up a New York tabloid without getting a daily dose of Trump talk, Trump trivia or Trump tales.

Trump, who has a tower, an airline, a bestseller, a vacant lot and a board game named after him among many other ventures, doesn't seem ready to let interest sag.

The divorce publicity has given him a platform that has put his name on page one. A spokesman claims the Trump name has sent crowds scurrying for glimpses of the Trump Princess yacht as it sails in Asia.

As Trump modestly declared, his split with Ivana "is bigger than Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton."

In his latest interview with a Trump-hungry New

York press, he has told the New York Post that he plans to take actress Maria Marples to the opening of his Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City in April.

Marples is said to be the other woman in the divorce saga.

The National Enquirer wants to pay Maria a million dollars for her story. Penthouse and Playboy want her to pose naked.

People magazine has made her a cover story and her alleged comment to a friend that a night with Donald was "the best sex I've ever had" is a best-selling T-shirt after appearing as a headline in the New York Post and boosting circulation by 46,000 copies. It is also soon to be a slogan on a cup.

The Taj Mahal is the third casino he owns in Atlantic City, a billion dollar structure experts say will need a million dollars a day in business to turn a profit.

"The day mankind has breathlessly awaited is upon us," said Post columnist Cindy Adams as she revealed that Donald and Maria will be arm-in-arm at the Taj's opening.

According to New York newspapermen, Trump is calling a lot of the shots himself as he makes the rounds of television stations, saying how upset he is about the publicity.

Study sees link between coffee, heart

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): A study of nearly 40,000 people has shown there may be a link between high coffee consumption and death from heart disease, according to Norwegian researchers.

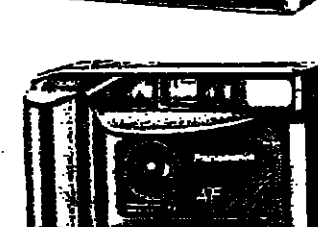
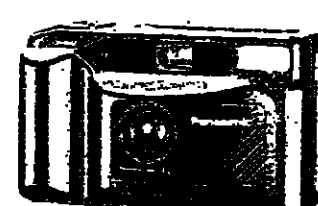
Their study, published in the British medical journal said the two could be "significantly related."

There have been contradictory findings on the links between coffee and heart disease but the Norwegian researchers said their survey, the largest so far, was the first to take account of other factors such as stress and smoking.

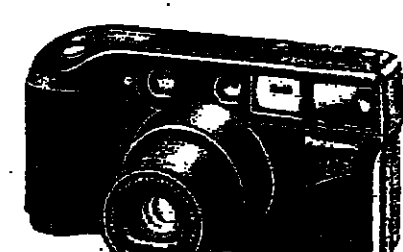
The study, in which 38,564 people took part, found that levels of cholesterol, a fatty substance in the blood which can contribute to heart disease, increased as more coffee was drunk each day and the death rate rose steadily among men who consumed more than two cups daily.

There were fewer deaths among women and excess risk was found only among those who drank more than seven cups a day.

Other studies have shown the coffee-cholesterol link is strongest for boiled coffee.

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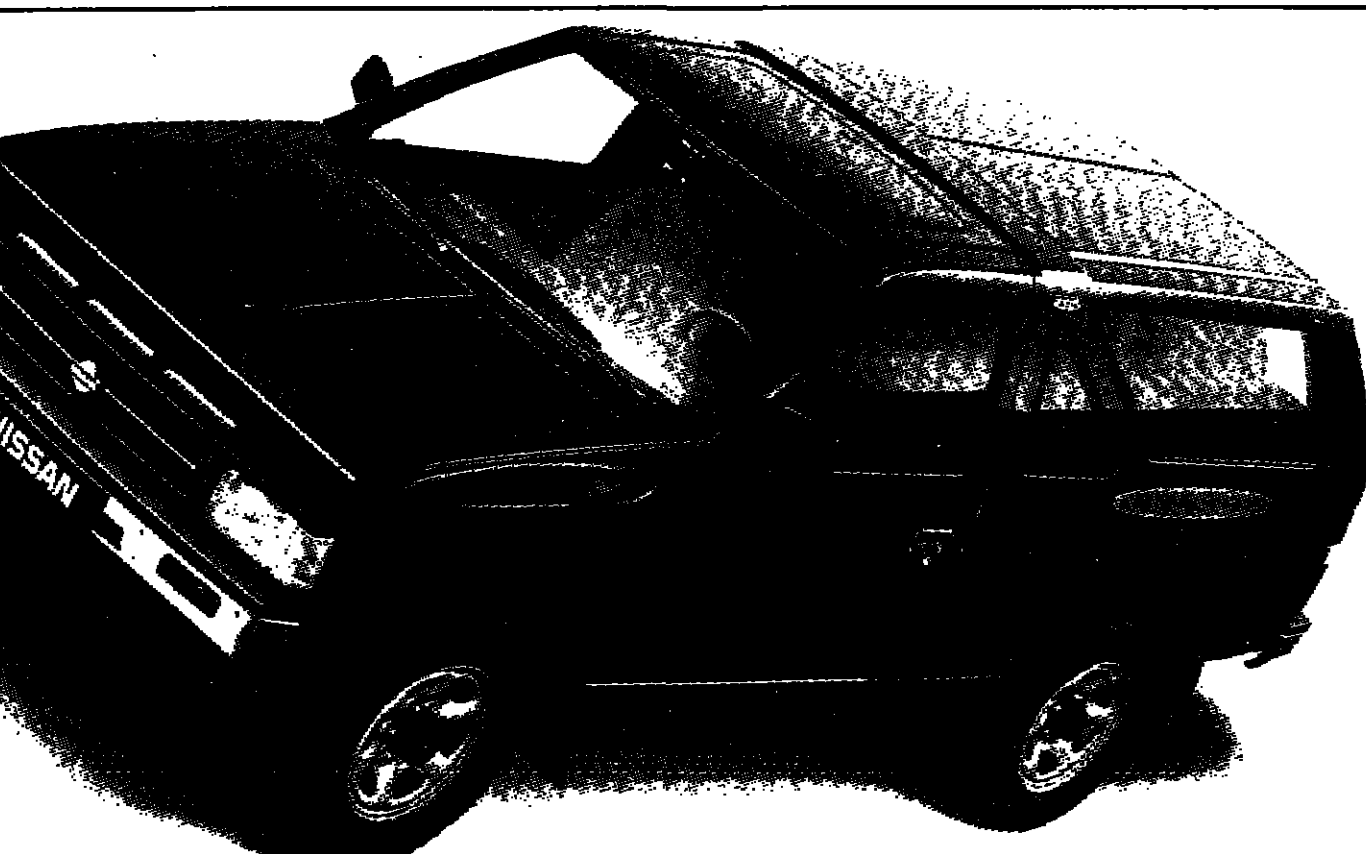


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NEWS IN BRIEF

Save rare gorilla: An all-out effort to save one of the world's rarest animals, the African mountain gorilla, is succeeding, Ugandan experts said on Sunday.

Tourism and Wildlife Ministry officials told Reuters they believe mountain gorilla numbers have increased by about 150 in the past four years to roughly 450 following a crackdown on poaching and a ban on exports to overseas zoos.

Michael Ediku, the warden in charge of mountain gorilla preservation here, said more than half of the world's remaining 800 mountain gorillas now live in Uganda.

Gorilla areas in Rwanda and Zaire are attracting many tourists from overseas. The number of tourists to Rwanda has boomed since the release of the film "Gorillas in the Mist" telling the story of Dian Fossey who was murdered in a remote Rwandan mountain camp where she spent years gaining the trust of the gorillas.

Bongo: 'I will go' — Legislators and ruling party leaders have postponed elections in this oil-rich one-party state of West Africa, and President Omar Bongo promised to step down if he does not win enough votes.

The beleaguered president made the pledge in an interview with the independent French television channel yesterday, ending a week in which he fired nine cabinet ministers in a bid to end protesters and strikes that closed the capital's airport for three days, disrupted telephone and telecommunication, and brought power cuts and gasoline shortages.

Bongo said in the interview that he was unaware of protesters' demands that he surrender power.

"If the Gabonese no longer have confidence in me, I will go," he said. "But I did not come to power in a coup. I can leave only when there is an election."

Bongo, one of only a handful of civilian leaders in the region, has ignored strikers' demands for a multiparty state in the country he has ruled since 1968. (AP)

Shot at elections: Voters in the Indian Ocean's Comoro Islands went to the polls Sunday in the tiny archipelago's second attempt in three weeks to hold a presidential election.

The four islands, 200 miles (320 km) east of the Mozambique Coast, have not held an independent presidential election since 1975, when they gained independence from France. Their first attempt, on Feb 18 this year, was called off after opposition leaders accused acting President Said Mohammed Dohar of cheating.

It was found that "indecent" ink used to mark the hands of those who had already voted that day was not so indecent as had been supposed. All vote-counts were declared invalid. (UPI)

Christians protest: Ugandan church leaders were Sunday up in arms at a government suggestion that the Bible and the Ten Commandments sit side by side on hotel room bedside tables.

A storm of protest swept the East African country — which has the highest reported number of AIDS cases on the continent — after a government-sponsored advertisement appeared last week in a prominent independent newspaper.

The advertisement ran: "While the Bible can save your soul, the condom will save your life."

Letters have poured into local and national newspapers protesting against both the advertisement and the plan to offer hotel guests a choice between spirit and flesh.

House collapses: 7 die in Dhaka

DHAKA, March 4, (Agencies): A mud house collapsed during heavy rain and killed seven members of a family, including a newborn baby, in the southern sea resort town of Cox's Bazaar, police said today.

Three other people were injured in the collapse which occurred yesterday on the outskirts of Cox's Bazaar, 296 kilometres (185 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said.

The police, contacted by telephone and speaking on condition they not be identified, said two days of heavy rains had disrupted life in Cox's Bazaar, famous for its sandy beaches on the Bay of Bengal.

Khmer recovers from offensive shock
Fierce fighting for Svay Chek

BANGKOK, March 4, (UPI): Cambodian resistance forces fought a series of battles against government troops around the recently recaptured town of Svay Chek in western Cambodia, both sides reported today.

The resistance said its forces were closing in on a government contingent that captured the strategically important town 15 miles (25 km) from the Thai border last week, but government radio said its troops inflicted heavy casualties on the guerrillas.

Military analysts in Bangkok said it appeared the resistance had recovered from the shock of a sudden government offensive in the past 10 days that rolled over a dozen resistance outposts.

With new supplies of ammunition

Mine blast in invasion tunnel
None hurt; Seoul troops comb passage

SEOUL, March 4, (Reuters): A mine explosion stopped South Korean troops investigating today a newly-found North Korean invasion tunnel to the South, but no one was injured in the blast, the Defence Ministry said.

"A mine exploded during a search operation, killing a sniffer dog, but no one was injured," a ministry spokesman said.

"We had removed several other mines and barriers apparently set up by North Korea to sabotage our operations."

The ministry, announcing yesterday the discovery of the tunnel in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating two Koreas, said the North could send 30,000 soldiers and scores of armoured vehicles through the tunnel within an hour.

Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said he believed the tunnel, found 1.2 km (about three quarters of a mile) into South Korean territory, was probably one of about 20 built by North Korea across the border as secret

routes for infiltration.

The two countries have been technically at war despite a 1953 truce ending the three-year Korean war.

Lee could not say when the tunnel, the fourth discovered from the North since 1974, was built.

"We will have to carry out a thorough investigation of the tunnel to establish when they built it but knee-deep water and various traps laid out by North Korea are hampering our operations," the ministry spokesman said.

South Korea has accused the North of amassing troops near the border and of putting finishing touches to plans for a surprise attack on its capital, Seoul, less than an hour's drive from the DMZ.

Officials said despite the blast they planned to continue searching through the tunnel below the South-North military demarcation line in the Demilitarized Zone.

The tunnel appears to have been constructed

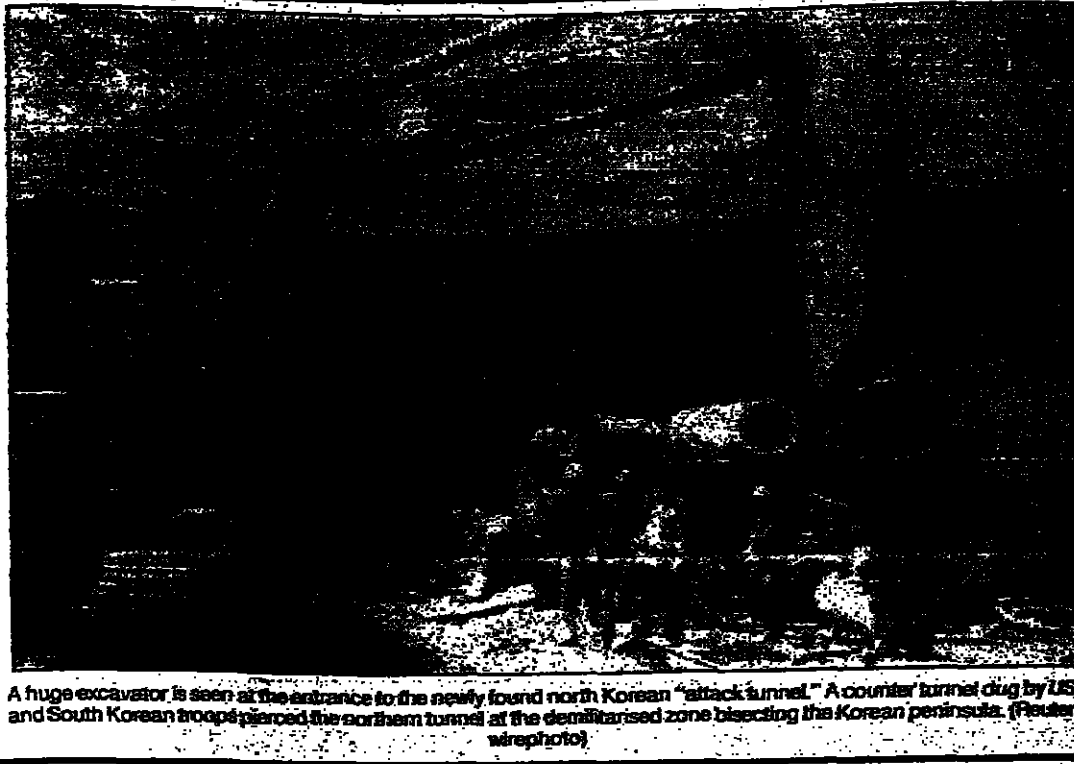
in the 1980s, unlike three others discovered between 1974 and 1978, the officials said.

The latest tunnel is located north of Yanggu, 65 miles (100 km) northeast of Seoul. It was spotted by US and South Korean mine detection experts and its existence was confirmed yesterday afternoon when it was penetrated by a shaft dug by the South.

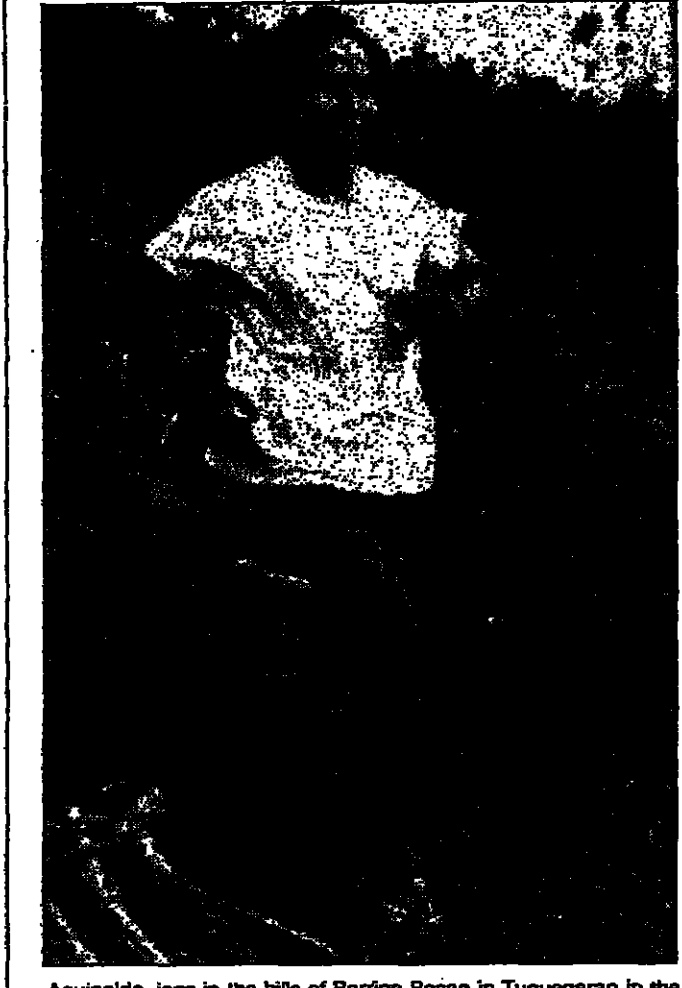
Officials said the searchers found pieces of electric wires, some supporting beams, insulators and a North Korean slogan written on the wall of the tunnel, but they did not disclose what the message said.

Lee said South Korea could continue its search for more tunnels, saying new scientific devices improved the country's chances of finding the secret passageways.

"This is not only a violation of the Korean military armistice agreement but also an undeniable act of aggression," Lee said of the latest discovery.



A huge excavator is seen at the entrance to the newly found North Korean "attack tunnel." A counter tunnel dug by US and South Korean troops pierced the northern tunnel at the demilitarized zone bisecting the Korean peninsula. (Reuters wirephoto)



Aguinaldo jogs in the hills of Barrion Basao in Tuguegarao in the northern Philippines. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebel governor is a chameleon

MANILA, March 4, (Reuters): Rodolfo Aguinaldo, the suspended governor and ex-colonel who seized a hotel and several hostages in the northern Philippines today, plays a dangerous game of switching allegiances.

Once a bright young officer, he is now on the run from his former military colleagues.

"Get Aguinaldo at all costs," ordered armed forces commander General Renato De Villa today.

Aguinaldo had an earlier brush with rebellion in August 1987 when numerous soldiers launched a coup attempt against President Corason Aquino and he proclaimed his support for them from his remote northern province of Cagayan.

The revolt was crushed and Aguinaldo was kicked out of the military, although never formally charged.

He remained a dramatic figure in his region, dressing casually in rubber slippers, but draping himself with belts of hand grenades and carrying guns wherever he went.

He ran for provincial governor in January 1988 and won by a landslide.

In an interview two years ago this week, Aguinaldo sang the praises of democracy and the constitution, declaring himself part of the system.

"There are limitations in the military. As a politician, I will be able to do a lot more," he told Reuters in March 1988.

"I don't want to wait until I'm a general to be able to change things. I want to prove ... there's hope for change through the constitution, not arms."

It seems he changed his mind.

When soldiers tried for a sixth time last December to overthrow Aquino, Aguinaldo voiced his support for the mutineers on local radio.

That army revolt also failed and in January Aguinaldo was suspended as Cagayan governor for 60 days for his alleged role in supporting the mutiny.

At first he refused to step down, but after a stand-off with the government finally agreed.

He was later charged, along with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, with murder and rebellion in connection with the coup attempt. Aguinaldo rejected the charges and refused to give himself up, saying he had not physically joined the mutiny.

He first made a name for himself as an intelligence officer in the paramilitary constabulary and later was a key figure in the reform of the armed forces movement of junior and middle-rank officers who helped topple former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Before being elected governor, he served as commander of the constabulary in Cagayan.

A 40-year-old man whose friends put his age at about 40, he has a reputation as a ruthless anti-communist fighter.

Local officials say he has been backed by private armies of as many as 2,000 men in the Cagayan region, an area infested with communist guerrillas.

China revives a spirit

Beijing takes help of Maoist saint to prop up regime

BEIJING, March 4, (Reuters): Children read about him. Adults talk about him. Everybody is asked to emulate Maoist saint Lei Feng.

China has resurrected the selfless soldier who nearly faded into oblivion but is now being called on to revive flagging revolutionary zeal since a bloody army crackdown last June.

Hardline Maoist leaders have brought back Lei, the smiling peasant boy whose unquestioning faith in the party and tireless energy earned him the nickname the "rust-proof screw" and inspired millions in the early days of communist rule.

His exploits had been quietly set aside, seen by pragmatists as out of date in the heyday of reforms begun in 1978.

But that has changed since hardliners crushed a pro-democracy campaign with heavy loss of life and toppled reformers from power in June.

Beginning this week Lei's story will make its television debut after years in the celluloid wilderness.

It is a project endorsed by the central military commission which has pressed for a quick completion, according to people familiar with the series.

The colour drama, scheduled to replace a black and white film made of his life in the early 1960s.

Qin Gao, the ethnic-Mongolian director of the series, was working round the clock putting the final touches to the four-part series last week.

Any director would enjoy the challenge of bringing Lei Feng's deeds to a television audience, he said. But he noted that the 1960s role model needed to be updated to satisfy present day viewers.

The army in particular is in need of help from little Lei. Its bloody assault on unarmed protesters has seriously damaged its credibility as a "People's Army", according to Western military attaches in Beijing.

Yang Baibing, a key member of the Communist Party's powerful military commission, has written a preface to a new edition of Lei's diary.

"Some people believe that the spirit of Lei Feng went out with the 1980s. That is wrong," he says.

"The spirit of Lei Feng re-emerged in our soldiers who put down the counter-revolutionary rebellion last June and who enforced martial law," imposed in Beijing shortly before troops moved in.

Official accounts breathlessly detail how he risked his life as a boy of nine by putting up posters attacking the nationalist government.

After the communists overthrew the nationalists in 1949, little Lei, still barely in his teens, played a role in land reform. He helped the elderly, put out fires and donated his savings to disaster relief.

Photographs show him washing the socks of his fellow soldiers or cleaning toilets.

If some of the details are questionable, the Communist Party's need for a hero is not.

The party wants the masses to forget June 4 and identify with a simple soldier who loved the people and dedicated his life to their service," said a disenchanted intellectual.

Taiwan elderly defy Lee, back Lin

TAIPEI, March 4, (AP): A group of aged nationalist assemblymen from the governing Nationalist Party defiantly endorsed a rival candidate today to challenge President Lee Teng-Hui in a presidential election this month.

Meeting at a Taipei restaurant, the assemblymen shouted their opposition to the party's nomination of Lee and instead threw their support behind Lin Yang-Kang, the popular head of Taiwan's judiciary.

They named Chiang Weng, 73, the sole surviving son of nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, as his running mate.

"We unanimously support this perfect team to run for the presidential election," announced assemblyman Teng Chieh to cheers from the crowd of about 200 assemblymen that included several independent politicians.

Teng predicted more than 350 assemblymen in the 752-seat national assembly, the electoral college dominated by elderly politicians, will support Lin and Chiang when it votes for a president March 1.

The president is elected by a simple majority in the legislature. There is no direct popular vote for president.

Teng described Lin, 62, as a "capable and courageous leader" and said Chiang still has supporters in China because of his family's historical ties and this could help the nationalists regain the communist-held mainland.

The elderly assemblymen, who fled to Taiwan in 1949 when the nationalists lost a civil war in China, continue to hope for a victorious nationalist return to the mainland.

The revolt by the elderly assemblymen was considered a serious blow for the nationalists, whose unity has given them a virtual stranglehold on politics in Taiwan since they fled the mainland.

Lin and Chiang, who attended the gathering, received a standing ovation following their endorsement, but Lin gave no indication whether he supported their endorsement.

Chiang said he would abide by whatever decision the national assembly's makes, but said he believes Taiwan would benefit from Lin's leadership.

Lin, like president Lee, is a native Taiwanese.



Three-year-old Suh Jong-Mil is hard put to follow the speeches at a housing rights rally in Seoul. About 300 people demonstrated against government housing policies and high real estate prices. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fast against torture

KATHMANDU, March 4, (UPI): Fifty political prisoners and criminals in a jail in Jaleswor in south Nepal started a hunger strike yesterday protesting alleged torture inside the prison there. Dr Devendra Raj Pandey, acting president of the human rights organisation of Nepal said today.

The protest strike follows fresh reports of torture while in police custody related by detainees released after being arrested during recent demonstrations for multi-party democracy.

"I produced my press accreditation before the police. Instead, police started kicking me. I was shoved into a sack and beaten black and blue," said Rajesh Mishra, correspondent of Deshantar, a popular weekly newspaper published in the capital.

"I saw police forcing detainees to urinate on an electric heater," he said. This has the effect of passing electric shocks through the human body.

Others said they were dipped into a dirty pond inside the police club complex in the capital.

Thai army chief gets cabinet offer

BANGKOK, March 4, (AP): Prime Minister Chatichai Choonavan said today that he will ask army chief Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh to be deputy prime minister and defence minister if the officer resigns from the military.

Chatichai made the comment when reporters asked his reaction to the officer's statement yesterday that he would resign as army chief and acting supreme commander of the military on March 27.

The inclusion of Chavalit could give the military backing and stability that would help Chatichai continue his term of office until 1992. His government has been plagued by worsening political infighting and widespread corruption.

Chavalit, 58, is widely regarded as a likely successor to Chatichai.

"I will resign. It will be my time after March 27," Chavalit said yesterday in a speech to fellow graduates of his military school. "What I would do after that I do not know yet."

On March 27, Chavalit and other senior officers are to receive military service decorations from the country's constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

2 Thais hanged for dope dealing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 4, (AP): Two Thai nationals have been hanged at a Malaysian prison for trafficking in heroin, prison officials said today.

Mohamed Zaki, 38, and Amin Khan Abdul Khan, 29, were sent to gallows at the Taping prison, 250 kilometres (150 miles) north of here, for trafficking in heroin in 1985.

Both men were from Surat Thani, in southern Thailand.

Under Malaysian law, anyone in possession of more than 15 grammes (0.53 ounces) of heroin is deemed to be a drug trafficker even if actual sale is not proved. The penalty is a mandatory death sentence.

Abidjan puts off austerity measures

ABIDJAN, March 4, (UPI): President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's embattled government postponed indefinitely Sunday announcement of an unpopular package of austerity pay cuts that have sparked two weeks of rioting and widespread unrest, state-run Ivory Coast radio said.

The government took the decision in response to a request by the secretaries-general, the ruling body of the president's Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast. The secretaries-general said it was convinced it was "a lack of information" about whose salary would be cut and by how much that had made people "react in the way they did" in the troubled West African nation.

The government postponed indefinitely introduction of the measures, which were to be announced Monday, the state-run radio dispatch said. Western diplomats described the postponement as a stab wound to the government, which already had postponed the announcement three other times.

Latent Gbagbo, leader of the illegal opposition party, the Ivorian Popular Front, in a part news conference last evening, voiced his support for a growing wave of protest which has swept the country and accused 84-year-old Houphouet-Boigny of having lost public confidence.

But Gbagbo denied that the party had organised marches, saying that the growing discontent "reflected the reality of the current regime."

The government austerity plan envisages cuts of up to 40 per cent in salary for civil servants and tax increases in the private sector. The plan was drawn up with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The plan is intended as a way of saving money to pay off foreign debt. Workers throughout the country have protested angrily at the salary cuts at a time when the cost of living in the Ivory Coast is one of the highest in Africa.

Gbagbo said, "all the workers are protesting against the diminution of their incomes. It is not the political party which is protesting in the street. It's the unions, the workers and the peasants."

Gbagbo called on the government to end tax exemptions and encourage the repatriation of wealth held abroad as a way of revitalising the economy, which is suffering from low world prices for cocoa and coffee — the Ivory Coast's main exports.

Gbagbo estimated that overseas funds held by Ivorians in foreign bank accounts total around \$130 million.

"The first problem is that of re-establishing confidence in the country. And that will be done by introducing multi-party democracy," said Gbagbo, whose party is not recognised by the government although it appears to be permitted to organise underground.

However, distribution of the first edition of its newspaper, L'Evenement (event), officially was prohibited last week.

Unrest was reported yesterday in the town of Divo, (100 miles, 150 km north west of Abidjan. The unrest has mainly involved students.

Japanese shun tradition, opting for theatrical wedding ceremonies

TOKYO, March 4, (Kuna): The Japanese are retreating from their traditional way of marriage and are having weddings that are closer to a theatrical performance consisting of speeches, music and dances.

After the mission of finding the right partner, the Japanese employee has the job of saving \$50 thousand for wedding expenses.

A ballroom must be reserved months in advance for the wedding because there are marriage ceremonies taking place every two hours in every ballroom in various cities and villages after six months of preparations from the time the couple agreed to get married.

The Japanese are not different from other couples celebrating their marriage by cutting a wedding cake but specialised caterers are beginning to make different types of cakes consisting of wasabi or rubber, so that it will look real but reduce the cost price and the problem of finishing off a three or four layer cake.

A Japanese tradition obliges guests invited to the wedding to present financial gifts beautifully wrapped with the name of the benefactor and that of the beneficiary clearly written on the packages before entering the ballroom in order to help the bride and groom in their expenses including giving presents to all guests.

For each wedding there is an announcer that briefs the audience on the celebratory programme and introduces the speakers, who talk about the bride and groom, mentioning their likes, dislikes and most embarrassing moments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Racial attack

FLORENCE, Italy, March 4. (Reuters) Racial tension increased in Florence yesterday as demonstrators protested against an alleged attack, the second in less than a week, against North African immigrants.

A 25-year-old woman was injured when protesters clashed with police outside a hotel where the Neo-Fascist 'Maid-On-Party' was holding a meeting. The demonstrators shouted slogans accusing the party of stirring up racial hatred.

Aurelius rides again

ROME, March 4. (Reuters) Marcus Aurelius, the only bronze equestrian figure to survive from Imperial Rome, will ride again on Rome's capital hill next month, over nine years after the ravages of urban pollution forced experts to remove him.

Dubcek in Paris

PARIS, March 4. (UPI) Czechoslovak parliament President Alexander Dubcek began a two-day visit to France today, saying Prague wishes to adopt a "pluralist parliamentary system."

Dubcek arrived at Orly airport together with his wife Anna and Jiri Hasek, who was his foreign minister in 1968 before the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

Bows to pressure

PARIS, March 4. (Reuters) French Prime Minister Michel Rocard bowed to political pressure today and cancelled a series of press conferences to keep computer files detailing a person's race and political and religious beliefs.

Rocard, who was under fire from both left and right, issued a new decree scrapping the other two, which he signed only last month, giving police a right to keep the files as part of their fight against terrorism.

Union disbands

PRAGUE, March 4. (AP) An extraordinary congress of the official trade union yesterday founded a new Czechoslovak confederation of unions after voting to disband the old union structure, the state news agency CTK reported.

Antarctica — a land without mercy: expeditionists

PARIS, March 4. (AP) Six weary but jubilant adventurers from six nations completed a seven-month, 3,800-mile (6,114-km) trek across Antarctica on skis and dog sleds yesterday, in the longest unmechanised crossing of the continent.

"It's a dangerous land, without mercy," co-leader Jean-Louis Etienne of France told French television moments after the team arrived at a Soviet base on the Indian Ocean coast.

The men were given a huge loaf of fresh bread and chugged champagne as the flags of their homelands flapped above them in a strong wind.

Besides Etienne, the team included US co-leader, Will

Steger of Ely, Minnesota, Victor Boyarsky of the Soviet Union, Geoff Somers of Britain, Qian Dahe of China, and Kazuo Furusato of Japan.

Interviewed on US television, Steger was asked what he intends to do now that the journey has ended. He laughed and said: "Take a sauna. Look forward to the sun."

"We can relax and join the human race again," he said. The expedition almost ended in tragedy in its final hours. As the team struggled through a storm toward the Soviet research base of Mirny, Furusato disappeared in a blizzard for 11 hours before he was found Friday.

Steger said it was "very close. We were lucky we found him."



Sorela Popa, daughter of Major General Gica Popa, is consoled by a family friend at the funeral of her father, Popa, who was the President of the military tribunal which sentenced to death Nicolai Ceausescu committed suicide last Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania retires more generals

BUCHAREST, March 4. (Agencies) Generals who were reactivated during the December revolution that overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu have been replaced with "younger and more competent" ones, state-run TV announced yesterday.

The decision was made by a mixed civilian-military government committee on military affairs, and was discussed at a meeting Thursday between the committee, Prime Minister Petre Roman, and Defence Minister Gen. Col. Victor Antonescu Stanculescu.

The committee was created two weeks ago to investigate demands by several hundred rebelling officers, who demanded the resignation of then-Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru, who came out of retirement during the revolution. The officers also demanded a purge of allegedly incompetent officers and those tainted by the former regime of Ceausescu.

Roman told the committee that "inclination to cover up the army's role in the revolution has disappeared" with the appointment of Stanculescu, adding that "in general, the army took the side of the people." TV said.

The report said the committee decided "to retire a group of generals and senior officers reactivated (along with Militaru) on Dec 22, replacing them with younger and more competent officers." It added, however, that "some officers were retained for a strictly defined period." It did not elaborate.

Britons protest community charge

LONDON, March 4. (Agencies) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's crusade to bury socialism has hit its most serious obstacle yet.

A Gallup poll published on Friday put the Conservatives 18.5 points behind the opposition Labour Party, their worst showing in nearly 20 years.

On Saturday, thousands of protesters — many self-described Tory voters — marched noisily in demonstrations around the country.

The peaceful demonstrations in Plymouth, Taunton, Bristol and Manchester included families pushing strollers and senior citizens carrying "No poll tax" placards.

Thatcher's idea seemed simple initially: Instead of having homeowners pay varying amounts of taxes on their property, have local councils estimate their annual expenses, then divide the costs equally among all adults in the district.

Since most local councils are run by

socialists, and since socialists are big spenders, the voters will quickly discover the cost of electing socialists, Thatcher reasoned. The new tax, formally known as a community charge, thus became known as the poll tax.

The government figured that under the new system, which took effect this year, each adult would pay about \$472. Instead as amounts are announced, the average is shaping up to be \$630 and surveys show most households will pay one-third more

than under the previous system. Thatcher insists that this is due to Socialist profligacy, and she accuses councils of exploiting the tax reform to rake in cash. But high charges have also been levied in conservative-run districts.

A survey in The Times of London on Friday showed that community charges in only three of 69 local councils were close to the \$472 estimate. Most showed increases of 30 per cent to 50 per cent over last year.

Resign, Mongolia rallies ask reds

BEIJING, March 4. (Reuters) Thousands of Mongolian protesters marched on Parliament in Ulan Bator today clamouring for sweeping resignations in the Communist Party, witnesses said.

Residents of Ulan Bator contacted by telephone said the demonstrators handed an ultimatum to a senior government official demanding the resignations and an emergency session of Parliament this month.

"They demanded that the government reply to their petition by Wednesday noon or protesters would go on hunger strike," said a Western resident in the Mongolian capital.

The ultimatum was delivered by four loosely-allied opposition groups campaigning for an end to Mongolia's 69-year-old communist system.

Shortly after receiving the petition, senior government official B. Lavransen emerged from the Parliament building to tell a roaring crowd that the government would reply to the demands by Wednesday.

"He said the government would make its reply by television and radio," said one resident who witnessed the rally.

The rally was the seventh staged in Ulan Bator since the first opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, was formed last December. Residents said it was the biggest yet.

"There were about 20,000 people out there, marching with banners," said one resident.

The East German news agency ADN, monitored in East Berlin, estimated 40,000 people demonstrated in the capital's Sakh-Bator Square.

Estimates of numbers at previous rallies have varied but none have topped 10,000.

The Mongolian Democratic Association held a congress two weeks ago to proclaim itself the country's first opposition party, called the Mongolian Democratic Party (MDP).



Workers try to remove a 10-metre high bronze statue of Lenin in a Bucharest square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev ready to become executive head

Heavy turnout for key Soviet polls

MOSCOW, March 4. (Agencies) Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was ready to accept nomination as the Soviet Union's first executive president, a post which would give him sweeping new powers.

Gorbachev, speaking to reporters after voting in local and regional elections, said the Soviet people were looking for strong leadership in a period of economic, social and political turmoil.

"In my opinion, it would not be understandable to our people if I used the current situation and began to withdraw," said Gorbachev who personally piloted the proposal for a stronger presidency through the Supreme Soviet on February 27.

The holder of the proposed new post will be able to declare martial law or a state of emergency, appoint or remove the prime minister and other officials and declare war in case of attack — greater powers than those enjoyed by President Gorbachev now.

His supporters say the executive powers are needed to meet the colossal challenges facing Soviet society.

But Gorbachev's critics — both communist conservatives and radicals — counter that the new post could establish a legal basis for virtual dictatorship.

Gorbachev, who was accompanied by his wife Raisa as he spoke outside a polling station in Moscow's Otkryabr district, sought to outmanoeuvre his critics by saying details of the post's "balanced powers" would be published in the press on Monday.

The post is widely seen to have been tailored to fit Gorbachev but his comments represented his clearest statement to date about his intentions.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the extended Parliament, is expected to discuss the draft law for creation of the new post later this month.

"All these bodies will complement each other and control each other, and thus any possibility to repeat what we had in the years of totalitarianism will

"I will not put myself forward ... but if I am put forward I will not avoid it. This is certain," said Gorbachev, speaking of the new executive presidency.

Creation of the new position has been agreed by the Supreme Soviet, the standing Parliament, but has still to be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies.



Gorbachev casts his vote in a Moscow polling station. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parkent protesters, police clash

Several killed as unrest hits Uzbek

MOSCOW, March 4. (Agencies) A new wave of ethnic violence in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan killed and injured an undetermined number of people yesterday as a Soviet newspaper and a local television correspondent reported.

The latest flare-up occurred in Parkent, 40 km (25 miles) from the Uzbek capital Tashkent, when Uzbek extremists demanded that hundreds of Meskhetian Turks sheltering in the town be evacuated back to their homes in the Fergana Valley.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party Youth League, said the mob stormed a police station and other public buildings after a "spontaneous" rally to protest at the evacuation of several hundred Meskhetian Turks to Parkent.

The Tashkent television correspondent, contacted from Moscow, said the extremists began hurling stones at police who fought back.

After the violence subsided, the chairman of the Uzbek council of ministers, M. Mirkasyimov, went on local television and promised that those responsible would be punished.

The correspondent said the

violence had nothing to do with local elections on February 18, which some Uzbek activists have described as fraudulent.

The Meskhetians, originally from the Soviet republic of Georgia, were deported to Central Asia in 1944 by dictator Josef Stalin. More than 50,000 have fled the region since violence last June.

Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan, has been one of the focal points of ethnic unrest which has rocked Soviet republics over the past two years and threatened to compromise President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

At least 110 people were killed last June in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley when Uzbeks attacked ethnic Turks in their homes and on the streets.

Interior security soldiers clashed with demonstrators yesterday in a city near Tashkent, and some protesters were killed, local activists and official sources said.

Abdurashid Sharif, a spokesman for the Uzbekistan grassroots organisation Berlik said in a telephone interview from Tashkent that soldiers fired on peaceful demonstrators in the city of Parkent.

Pravda publishes radical manifesto

MOSCOW, March 4. (UPI) The Communist Party's radical wing warned yesterday that only a total overhaul can prevent the party, "cluttered with privileges and sunk in corruption," from completely losing power as in Poland or resorting to brute force like in China.

Pravda, the party's official newspaper, published the democratic platform in a stunning concession of its growing radical forces, who called for the resignation of the entire ruling Politburo and Central Committee in another sign that the party is headed toward a split.

The platform, among the most radical documents ever published in the official Soviet press, would almost surely have been grounds for arrest as recently as five years ago if a similar manifesto had been distributed on the street.

"We, communists representing 162 party clubs and organisations from 102 cities in 13 republics of the country, are united on a democratic platform," it said.

"The ruling party bears the main responsibility for a further deepening of the crisis that has brought society to a dangerous precipice," the platform said.

The radical communists, led by Yuri Afanasyev, Boris Yeltsin and other progressive members of the Soviet Parliament, said they would present the platform at the 28th party congress in early summer.

In an editorial comment preceding the document, Pravda said its publication represents "a continuation of the principled course of the newspaper."

"We are anxious to present on our pages a broad range of opinions, ideas and approaches toward renewing the party," Pravda said.

With Pravda headed since last fall by a former close adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev, Ivan Frolov, and the Soviet leader's recent signs that he is about to accelerate his "perestroika" reform drive, the platform's publication may indicate that Gorbachev is prepared to join radical communists in an all-out attack on conservatives.

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Regain land or quit, Kohl told

BONN, March 4. (Reuters) Right-wing West Germans challenged Chancellor Helmut Kohl today to regain lost land from Poland or resign just as Paris and Moscow geared up to support Warsaw on its border claims from a united Germany.

"We would rather forego (Kohl's) coalition than a part of the German homeland," insisted Herbert Czaja, head of an influential pressure group of Germans thrown out of Eastern Europe after World War Two.

"If the government falls apart over the border issue, we will have to have early elections," said Czaja, whose Expellees' League and its demands — rejected by most voters — loom as a possible spoiler to Kohl's hopes for re-election in December.

Czaja, a Christian Democrat (CDU) member of parliament like Kohl, raised the stakes in the unity debate a day after the chancellor's liberal coalition partners denounced his decision demanding that Warsaw renounce any wartime reparations claims.

Kohl, walking a tightrope between pleasing the far right and calming Poland, satisfied neither on Friday

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF



Join at rugby

Princess Anne speaks with Welsh rugby team manager Clive Rowlands (left) while her estranged husband Mark Phillips enjoys the Wales versus Scotland rugby match at the national stadium. Although a couple live apart, they were both at the match with their two children.

Aid cut

WASHINGTON, March 4, (UPI): The US Congress could cut off or slash \$138.5 million in military aid and \$546.2 million in economic aid to El Salvador but would run into stiff resistance from the administration, the General Accounting Office said yesterday.

In a report to US Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, GAO—the Congressional watchdog agency—said the money is in the “pipeline” and could still be aborted before reaching El Salvador.

Kennedy requested the information to back his call for a cutoff in aid to El Salvador pending steps to end the civil war, restore human rights and prosecute those responsible for the murder of six Jesuit priests last November.

Bush lauds donation

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, March 4, (UPI): President George Bush is hailing former ambassador Walter Annenberg's \$50 million donation to the United Negro College Fund as “one of the most brilliant ‘thousand points of light’ I can think of.”

Speaking with reporters yesterday before he was to officiate over the donation ceremony today Bush seemed surprised that word of the contribution, the largest gift to black colleges on record, had leaked out.

But he said, “I think that generosity will bring on well-deserved support from others. It's most generous and one of the most brilliant ‘thousand points of light’ I can think of.”

The New York Times first reported word that Annenberg, 82, the former US ambassador to Britain, was to announce the gift, among the largest contributions ever made to American higher education, today morning at his estate near Palm Springs, California.

Kidnapping spree

BOGOTA, March 4, (AP): Twenty people, including mayors and other public officials, were in the hands of Colombian guerrillas yesterday as the rebels mounted a kidnapping campaign in an apparent attempt to disrupt next week's national elections.

Colombians elect mayors and congressmen March 11.

The National Liberation Army, an insurgent group led by a former priest, kidnapped 20 people in the past three days, police said.

Those abducted included four mayors, three state assemblymen, one city councilman, three local political party leaders, one reporter, four employees of rural government programmes and four ranchers and businessmen.

All of the kidnappings have been in northeast Colombia. The mayors are from the towns of California, Tibu, El Carmen and Hacari.

Fauntroy running

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Democrat Walter Fauntroy announced yesterday he will run for mayor of the nation's capital, saying he hoped to “heal the hurt” left by incumbent Marion Barry's indictment on drug and perjury charges.

Fauntroy, the city's non-voting delegate to Congress since 1971, said he reached his decision to seek the democratic nomination “after weeks of painful and tearful consideration.”

US sanctions to remain in place

Congressmen praise De Klerk, offer ‘pause’

CAPE TOWN, March 4, (UPI): A Congressional delegation that included key architects of American sanctions against South Africa offered to President Frederik de Klerk today a “pause” in their campaign for further sanctions and words of praise for his initial reform steps.

“We are very encouraged that a real process of change has begun which holds enormous possibilities for negotiating a peaceful transition to a genuine non-racial democracy,” delegation leader William Gray, Democrat-Pennsylvania, told a news conference.

“We are deeply impressed that parties on both sides are taking risks and reaching out to one another, demonstrating with their courage a genuine desire to peace,” he said.

“All of this represents a rare window of opportunity through which a new South Africa can emerge.”

The nine-member delegation held talks Thursday with black leader Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress before flying to South Africa for meetings with De Klerk, other government officials.

The ANC leaders appealed to the congressmen to maintain existing sanctions against Pretoria. And while the legislators agreed, they also expressed concern over how to reward De Klerk for the reform steps taken so far.

The congressmen affirmed a two-prong strategy of maintaining sanctions against Pretoria under the comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986, while using diplomacy and public statements to encourage De Klerk to forge ahead with his proposals for power-sharing negotiations with the black majority.

Ron Dellums, the California Democrat who authored a tougher sanctions measure in 1988 that failed to pass the senate, said that although present sanctions would remain in force, it was unlikely additional pressure would be approved pending further developments.

“As a result of this new dynamic I am prepared to pause for a moment to say, ‘let's see if it will involve those persons who are appropriate to the process to move forward to the kind of society we would all like to see.’”

“We are not saying that apartheid is being dismantled,” added New York Democrat Stephen Solarz, “but we see genuine commitment on both sides to span the racial divide and fashion a new South Africa and that gives us encouragement.”

Approved over a presidential veto, the 1986 legislation imposed stinging sanctions against Pretoria, including a cut in air links between the two countries, sharp curbs on imports and exports and restrictions on lines of credit to South Africa.

“The conditions that gave rise to our desires to impose sanctions are still there—apartheid and repression are still there,” said Dellums.

Bush nominee has SA stocks

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): President George Bush's nominee for the nation's top civil rights enforcement job holds nearly \$20,000 worth of stock in a company that does business in white-ruled South Africa.

Former New York state Sen. John R. Dunne owns 400 shares of Schlumberger Ltd., with a market value of \$19,650, according to the financial disclosure form he has submitted to the Senate judiciary committee.

Schlumberger, a New York-based firm engaged in oil field services and oil products manufacturing, has direct investments in South Africa, according to Alison Cooper, a spokeswoman for Investor Responsibility Research Centre, a Washington-based advocacy group that tracks such companies.

Noriega wife feels safe in Cuba

HAVANA, March 4, (Reuters): The wife of ousted Panamanian military strongman General Manuel Noriega, who was allowed to leave Panama on Friday with her three daughters and an infant grandson, said yesterday she felt safe in Cuba.

Felicidad Sieiro told Cuban television she felt “calm, safe and at home.”

“I thank the Cuban people and President Fidel Castro for the welcome they have given me,” she added.

Sieiro was met by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Bruguera when she arrived in Havana on Friday night with her daughters Thais, Lorena and Sandra and a 6-month-old grandson. She did not outline her immediate plans.

But she and her daughters were expected to fly on to the Dominican Republic. The Dominican ambassador in Panama City said on Friday they had been granted political asylum in his country.

Hundreds of hecklers shouted “go away beggars,” as the family, surrounded by Cuban diplomatic personnel, arrived at Panama City's airport Friday night.

Some hecklers threw pennies at the Noriegas and said: “This is to pay your husband's bail.” The taunt was a reference to a comment by Noriega's wife, that she would travel around Panama asking for donations for her husband's defence.

On Wednesday, the Panamanian government said that it would allow safe passage out of the country for Mrs Noriega.

The members of Noriega's family were among a group of Panamanians who took refuge in the Cuban embassy in Panama City shortly after the US invasion last December 20.

They were granted safe passage out of Panama despite charges against them of illegal appropriation of state goods and of offences against state security brought by the US-backed government of Guillermo Endara.

California governor signs gun bill requiring 15-day waiting period

SACRAMENTO, California, March 4, (UPI): Governor George Deukmejian signed a bill yesterday making California the first state to require a 15-day wait before the purchase of a rifle or a shotgun.

Enactment of the new law, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 1991, ends one of the most controversial and intensely fought gun-control battles of the year. Its passage by the California legislature signalled a major defeat for the National Rifle Association.

Deukmejian, a gun-control opponent until a crazed gunman killed five children on a Stockton, California, schoolyard a year ago, had been urged to sign the bill by law enforcement officials throughout the

state.

“I believe this legislation is a reasonable measure that will keep more guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them,” Deukmejian said in his weekly radio address.

The 15-day waiting period is designed to give the state justice department time to run background checks on potential buyers of so-called long guns. It is also meant to provide a “cooling-off” period that could prevent crimes committed in the heat of passion with just-purchased guns.

A waiting period and background check has been required for the purchase of a handgun in California since 1974.

Gun-control sentiment partly engendered by the Stockton shooting helped push through a measure Deukmejian signed into law last year that outlawed 56 types of military-style assault rifles. That measure, too, was vigorously opposed by gun lobbying groups like the NRA.

Deukmejian said he will push for legislation to shorten the waiting period, criticised by some gun owners and dealers as an unnecessary inconvenience.

The bill prohibits anyone with a background of mental instability or a criminal record from taking possession of a gun. A previously passed lifetime ban against gun possession by convicted felons remains in

effect.

The bills' author, state Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly said he expects the waiting period and background check to result in about 10,000 people being denied a gun each year.

State Justice Department officials have estimated the new law will require 1 million background checks a year. Under the measure, the 15-day wait would be shortened to 10 days in 1996.

To satisfy legislators who feared the background checks would lead to de facto gun registration—anathema to many gun enthusiasts—the bill requires that forms used to process the checks be destroyed within 30 days.

Drug lords told to give up

BOGOTA, March 4, (Reuters): Colombian President Virgilio Barco has urged the country's billionaire drug lords to surrender, but refused to rule out their possible extradition to the United States to face narcotics charges.

Barco made his plea last night, hours after the cocaine lords had declared a “state of alert” to protest at the government's rejection of their peace offers.

On January 17 the so-called

extraditables, representing the world's most powerful cocaine cartel, offered to quit the cocaine trade and stop their campaign of violence in return for unspecified guarantees. But they said yesterday they had renounced violence only to become victims themselves of official murder and torture.

The President said the group should stop talking about turning themselves in and just do it. “We are sure that Colombian judges will try to meet our justice as it should be applied,” he told reporters.

Barco, returning from an official visit to Uruguay and Argentina, said he would consider any plan the feared traffickers might have for their surrender. “One would have to study what it is they are proposing,” he said.

So far Colombia's battered justice system has been unable to hold any major drug smuggler in jail. Colombian judges appointed to try these cases are given a choice, “silver or lead,” meaning they must choose between a bribe or a bullet.

Barco said he did not know what the drug lords were planning when they declared yesterday an undefined “state of alert.”

The extraditables said they were tired of having their peace overtures dashed by Colombian civil servants on the US government payroll.

Their statement followed reports that two British mercenaries who had helped train death squads backed by the drug gangs, had returned to Colombia.

US shuttle Atlantis lands safely

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California, March 4, (AP): Space shuttle Atlantis landed safely on a California desert runway today, completing a secret military mission that included the launch of a \$500-million spy satellite.

Atlantis, carrying a crew of five military men, plunged through the Earth's atmosphere in a long fiery dive, flashed over the California coastline north of Los Angeles and then landed at Edwards Air Force Base at 10:09 am (1809 GMT).

With mission commander John O. Creighton at the controls, Atlantis touched down smoothly on a dry lakebed runway and rolled to a stop on the centre line, ending a 4 1-2-day mission that began with a launch in darkness Wednesday from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Atlantis returned to Earth as a weather front packing high winds moved toward Edwards Air Force Base, threatening unacceptable conditions for the countdown.

The spacecraft experienced a pressure dip in a hydraulic system that controls flaps and steering. The astronauts switched to backup systems as they glided toward Earth. Later, mission control said pressure was restored in the primary system.



While holding his two and a half year-old daughter Camila, Ortega is greeted by Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo during a mass for peace celebrated by Obando in a Mariagua church. (Reuters wirephoto)

Joins mass for reconciliation

Ortega: situation is tense

MANAGUA, March 4, (Agencies): President Daniel Ortega attended a mass of reconciliation yesterday, joining Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo in an appeal for “common sense to prevail” as the losing Sandinista Party transfers power to the United National Opposition.

“I thought it was very important to send a message in favour of peace because I think the situation is very tense,” Ortega said after the mass.

“We are here to pray for peace,” said Obando Y Bravo, who hails from Ortega's hometown of La Libertad.

“These children,” the cardinal said pointing to the children that Ortega and his wife held in their arms, “must grow in peace, in a country where there is peace. We cannot have peace if there is hatred in the heart. Only from a

heart at peace can come a desire for peace.”

Ortega and his Sandinista National Liberation Front lost Sunday's presidential elections to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

In a speech that has won him admiration and respect from friends and foes alike, Ortega accepted defeat and pledged to help carry out a smooth transition of power.

His attendance at the mass was another part of his effort to set an example in an effort to cool passions.

But many in the rank and file of the government party fear that the revolutionary social measures of the Sandinistas may be revoked by the incoming government.

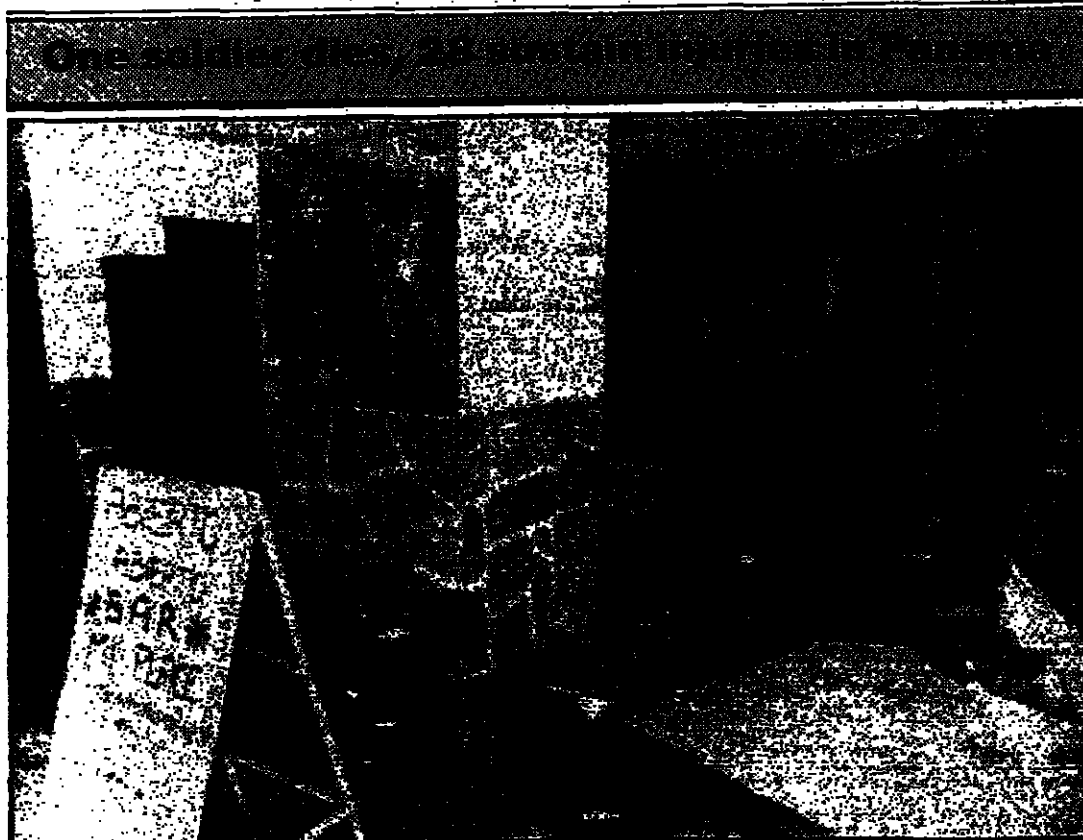
“Those are institutions created to defend the national

sovereignty and the lives of the people.” They must be preserved,” Ortega said of the army and the Interior Ministry after mass.

In answer to a question, he said the Sandinistas are willing to work with the new government supporting “everything that is in favour of the popular classes, but rejecting everything that is not in the national interest.”

“The situation is very tense,” Ortega told reporters. “Because of this a message in favour of peace, good sense, pragmatism and reason is necessary so that this process evolves positively without disturbing the foundations of the revolutionary process.”

Ortega said the disarming and disbanding of the Contras remained the chief roadblock to a peaceful transition.



My Place nightclub's interior is shown.

Grenade attack on US GIs



Eric Quintero, a Panama Canal employee, sits in the emergency room of Panama City hospital after being injured in the blast. (Reuters wirephoto)

PANAMA CITY, March 4, (AP): A US soldier has died of injuries sustained in a grenade attack on a discotheque, the US southern command said today.

The Friday night bombing was believed to be the first such attack on US servicemen since the United States invaded Panama on Dec 20 and overthrew the government of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Army Spec. Anthony Ward, 21, was one of 16 US servicemen and 12 Panamanians injured when two men yelling “long live Noriega” threw a grenade through a glass wall of the disco, known to be frequented by US military personnel, then sped away in a car.

Ward died at the US military's Gorgas Hospital yesterday of injuries to the chest and abdomen, a military statement said.

Thirteen other American military personnel remained hospitalized today, the statement said. It did not give their conditions. Officials said yesterday that only one was in serious condition.

Noriega's defence forces have been disbanded, but Panamanian officials have expressed concern that paramilitary groups could resurface. Large caches of weapons are believed to be hidden around the country, officials say.

Panamanian police have questioned several witnesses to the bombing but have announced no arrests in the case.

Southern command officials and the head of Panama's judicial technical police met yesterday to discuss the attack.

“I heard something come in that broke the glass, hit the table and then I heard the explosion,” said Eric Quintero, one of the wounded.

Duelling editor's house robbed

MONTEVIDEO, March 4, (Reuters): Robbers broke into the home of a Uruguayan newspaper editor who plays not to defend himself in a government-approved duel with a police officer and stole papers connected with the feud.

The daily La Republica's owner-editor Federico Fassano told reporters that the intruders tore some bars off a window late on Friday to enter the house and broke doors to get to his papers.

Fassano said they stole no valuables but apparently took documents related to his feud with provincial police officer Saul Claveria.

“The police are carrying out an investigation (but) everything indicates that they took a file on the duel,” said Fassano. He declined to comment if he saw any connection between the robbery and the duel.

No comments were immediately available from local police.

Claveria obtained the government's approval last week to challenge Fassano to a duel after La Republica ran articles linking with a smuggling case.

Fassano earned a 30-year-old ecologist and a congresswoman Friday as his new seconds for the duel. The original ones resigned in disagreement with the editor's plans to not defend himself in the duel.

MIDEAST

Iran team in Beirut for talks on hostages

LONDON, March 4, (Agencies): A London newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, reported on Sunday that a team of Iranian officials has arrived in Beirut on a mission to free one or more of the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The Independent on Sunday said its information came from unnamed Lebanese and Iranian exiles in London and Paris.

"One exile who took part in previous hostage negotiations said he expected a release within days, but others said a final decision depended on the outcome of political fighting in Tehran," the paper said.

Iran's so-called pragmatists, led by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, are at odds with hard-line, anti-Western radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

The Independent on Sunday reported the Iranian team sent to Beirut was reportedly dispatched by Rafsanjani.

There are 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon. Most are believed held by pro-Iranian factions.

The story followed persistent reports in the Arab press and from Iranian and Lebanese sources of secret negotiations between Tehran and Washington over the hostage issue.

The newspaper said talks had been held in Muscat, Ankara and Geneva between Iranian officials led by Rafsanjani's brother Mahmoud and former US government officials, including former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

US President George Bush had denied any secret talks with Iran and ruled out trading for the hostages.

There are 17 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, among them three Britons and an Irishman.

The Independent on Sunday quoted British officials as saying they had no knowledge of talks going on, but they

acknowledged that an approach had been made some weeks ago offering to open negotiations for the release of Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy, and mentioning a ransom figure of \$20 million.

A senior Muslim militia official in Beirut told Reuters on Wednesday that the United States and Iran had held secret talks on the issue.

The militia official said senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and an American negotiator met in New York in December. A second round of talks took place in Geneva in January, he said.

The Iranian source said Tehran's team

in West Germany included negotiators previously involved in indirect contacts with Washington through Pakistan. They were trying last summer to defuse a potential crisis after a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon said it had executed US hostage William Higgins.

The Iranian source expressed optimism about contacts in West Germany, saying Tehran had dropped its previous insistence on linking freedom for the hostages with US concessions.

He said talks were continuing with Lebanese kidnap groups holding 17 missing Westerners, eight of them Americans.

Shaky Beirut truce holds on

Vatican mediating

BEIRUT, March 4, (AP): A shaky ceasefire held in the Christian enclave today as the Vatican was reportedly mediating in the Christian showdown to discourage the Syrian Army from entering the conflict.

Government officials said the Vatican sent an emissary to convince renegade Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chieftain Samir Geagea to patch up their differences to avoid a Syrian military intervention to quell the fighting.

Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi left for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a three-nation Arab tour. He will not visit Morocco because of King Hassan's previous engagements but will visit Algeria. The three are working under Arab League auspices on a peace plan for Lebanon.

Hrawi is seeking support for an unannounced plan to end the fighting which has killed 766 people and wounded 2,088 since it broke out Jan 30. He has warned in the past that he will ask Syria to intervene.

The casualties included a woman wounded in the chest by a sniper bullet early today as she tried to cross from Christian east Beirut to the city's Muslim, western sector through the mid-city museum gateway.

The woman, Mariam Rizk, was admitted to the Greek Orthodox Hospital in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district for treatment, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said Aoun's army gunners, manning 130-mm howitzers, opened fire at an unidentified ship that tried to enter Beirut

harbour before dawn. Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces Militia, which controls the port, said the ship was loaded with vegetables and couldn't dock at Beirut port because of the shelling.

The militia, in a communique, accused Aoun's gunners of trying to enforce a food blockade on its isolated pockets in East Beirut. Aoun's command withheld comment on the report.

Government sources in west Beirut said the Vatican dispatched Monsignor Alberto Sozzi for talks with Aoun and Geagea on a solid settlement to their dispute over the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.

One source said, "Sozzi's message to Aoun and Geagea is that the Vatican will not be able to prevent a Syrian military intervention in the Christian areas if their clashes continued and if such an intervention was requested by President Hrawi."

Officials in the Christian enclave refused to comment on Sozzi's mission or even confirm his arrival at the port of Jounieh.

Aoun has rejected Hrawi's election by parliament Nov 24 under an Arab League-brokered peace accord to end nearly 15 years of civil strife in Lebanon.

The general refused to leave the shell-wrecked presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, forcing Hrawi to set up temporary headquarters in Syrian-policed west Beirut.

Geagea recognised Hrawi as president, but failed to outline his stand on the peace accord, worked out by Lebanese legislators in Taif, Saudi Arabia in October.



Avenis smiles as he enters Shamir's home for a party meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Censor on influx news

No guarantee for incoming Jews

LONDON, March 4, (Agencies): A senior PLO official was quoted today as saying the safety of Soviet Jewish migrants who settle in Israeli-occupied territories cannot be guaranteed.

"No one can check the behaviour of the Palestinian citizen in the occupied territories," Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, told the London-based Ashraf Al Awasat newspaper.

"No one can guarantee the results of this provocation," the Palestinian sees with his own eyes a person coming from Leningrad or Kiev or anywhere in the world to settle in his home just because he is a Jew.

"And he (the Palestinian) is thrown out of his house," said Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen.

Israel said today it was censoring news reports about Soviet Jewish immigrants to protect them against Arab attacks and denied trying to muzzle criticism of their settlement in occupied territories.

"It is not our aim to use the censor for political purposes or for any reason other than security," Avi Pazner, media adviser to Shamir, told Israel Radio.

"There were a number of threats by Arab organisations, Palestinian and otherwise, to strike at immigration, to strike at immigrants," he said.

Israel television said last night Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

would accept a US formula for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks but cabinet ministers from his rightist Likud Party said the matter was still under debate.

Shamir and his three senior cabinet ministers, including leaders of the Labour Party, will meet today but the Likud ministers said the "forum of four" did not have a mandate to decide on Israel's next diplomatic step.

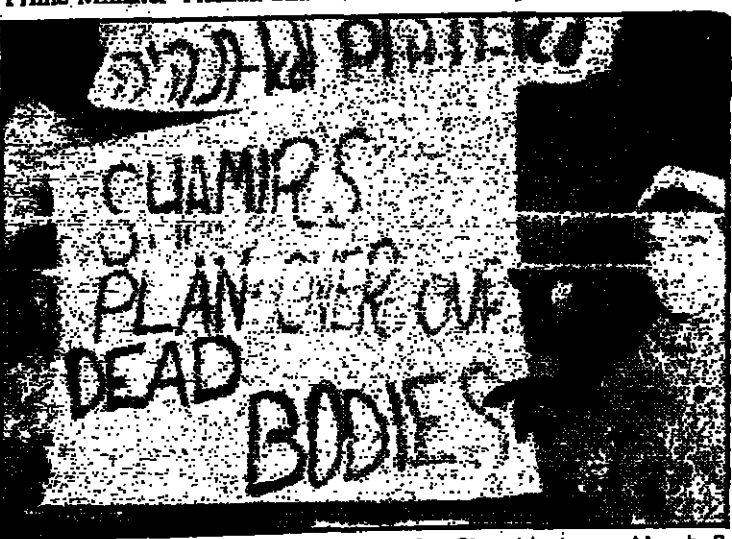
"The forum of four cannot reach a decision until Likud decides (on its stand)," Environment Minister Ronni Milo said late yesterday after a four-hour meeting of Likud ministers at Shamir's home. He said Likud would meet and decide on Monday.

Meanwhile, President George Bush said yesterday that US aid to Israel will be influenced by whether Tel Aviv allows new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem," Bush told a news conference after meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. "I will conduct that policy as if it is firm."

"And I will be shaped in whatever decisions we make to see whether people comply with that policy."

The President had been asked about Secretary of State James Baker's statement that US aid to Israel would be conditioned on a halt to Jewish settlement of the Israeli-occupied territory.



Ultra right-wing Israeli protest outside Shamir's home March 3. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tunisia reshuffle to check unrest

TUNIS, March 4, (UPI): President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has announced a cabinet reshuffle including changes in the key posts of interior, justice and foreign ministers evidently designed to help crack down on a wave of Muslim Fundamentalist-inspired unrest, officials said today.

Prime Minister Ahmed Karoui, who was appointed Sept 27, retains his post under the shake-up announced last night.

Observers said the most intriguing change was the appointment as interior minister of former Foreign Minister Abdel Hamid Al Sheikh, a close aide of the North African head of state.

Both Al Sheikh and Ben Ali come from military backgrounds and were among the first Tunisian officers who attended the French Officers Academy at St. Cyr after independence.

Al Sheikh was army chief of staff at the start of the 80's. He is to be assisted by two secretaries of state in his new post, indicating the importance the president attached to beefing up efforts to keep internal order.

Muslim fundamentalist students sympathetic to pro-Iranian "Islamic Movement" last week sought to stage street demonstrations in Tunis but the rallies were dispersed by police firing tear gas.

Muslim fundamentalists also have been agitating in Tunisian universities over recent months.

The number of strikes has increased over the last few months and collective bargaining talks to be held soon look set to be tough, industrial experts say.

Municipal elections are to be held in the spring, giving the fundamentalists another chance to make their voices heard.

Islamic fundamentalists received more than 13 per cent of the vote running as independents in April 2 legislative elections last year, making them the biggest opposition group in the country.

Ben Ali seized power from Tunisian founding father Habib Bourguiba in a bloodless takeover Nov 7, 1987.

Al Sheikh replaces former Interior Minister Chedli Neffati who becomes justice minister.

Ismael Khalil, formerly head of the Tunisian Central Bank, becomes foreign minister replacing Al Sheikh in that post.

Khalil is a career diplomat and also the principal architect of a structural readjustment plan adopted four years ago with a view to liberalising the economy.

Khalil has served on the board of directors of the World Bank and as Tunisia's ambassador to the Economic Community at Brussels.

The pro-government newspaper La Presse hailed Khalil's appointment saying "Tunisia has found the formula that will allow the economy and diplomacy to be at each other's service."

One novelty in the reshuffle is the creation of the post of special advisory minister to the President of the republic to be held by former Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Habib Boularès.

Protests spur Iran to act on economy

Hotline to handle complaints

NICOSIA, March 4, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday promised reforms and called for a drive to boost industrial production to alleviate economic hardships which have triggered protests.

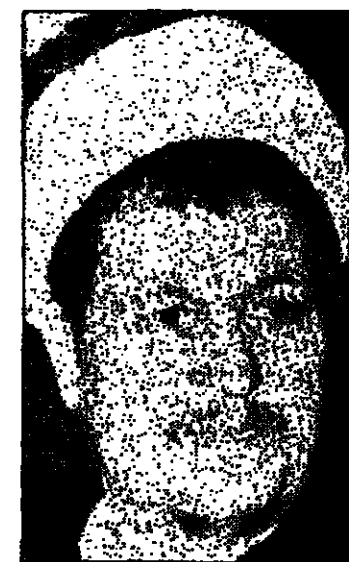
Rafsanjani's office yesterday set up a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints from disgruntled as a safety valve for simmering public frustrations after a decade of economic mismanagement, revolutionary turmoil and an eight-year war with Iraq.

Tehran Radio announced two telephone numbers which Iranians can call to voice complaints. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying: "With regard to the country's present conditions, the only solution for economic problems and revitalising the society is to increase production."

Speaking to managers of state-run industries, most of which are operating at a loss, he said: "We do not have political, cultural or military difficulties currently. Our difficulties are mostly from a shortage of production."

Rafsanjani has advocated the privatisation of inefficient state industries, which account for most of the \$1 billion deficit projected in \$57 billion budget for the next Iranian year beginning March 21.

Sources in Tehran reported a number of angry protests last week sparked by popular resent-



Rafsanjani

ment over continued economic hardships.

Rafsanjani blamed high prices on middle-men who took advantage of the government's foreign exchange shortfall to import goods and sell them at exorbitant prices.

He acknowledged that keeping the Iranian rial artificially inflated at 70 to the dollar was the root of the economic problem.

Imported goods, when converted into rials are prohibitively expensive and beyond the reach of most of Iran's 55 million population.

The government offers the

goods at a much reduced price at a loss to itself. The subsidised imports, however, are too small to meet growing demand.

Rafsanjani said: "It is not advisable to continue the past policy and provide all goods with the 70-rial exchange rate, even if there is sufficient foreign exchange to do so."

Provision of goods as in the past is in no way a service to the people and the country," he added. "Subsidies will go only for basic needs."

Rafsanjani added that "what will save the country is that consumer goods are produced inside the country, and are offered to the people at reasonable prices."

Rafsanjani said the country's reliance on imported goods must be cut. He disclosed in January that factories were operating at 40 per cent of capacity.

Iranians are contending with soaring inflation, shortages of almost all basic commodities, and high unemployment — all consequences of the war with Iraq which devastated the country's economic infrastructure.

During the war, most hardships were blamed on the conflict. But since the August 1988 ceasefire, public demands have been rising.

There has been no mention of protest demonstrations on the state-run radio, television or Islamic Republic News Agency, all monitored in Nicosia.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Wiped out

CAIRO, March 4, (AP): The Sudanese armed forces command claimed in a statement yesterday its troops have wiped out four rebel battalions and two camps in south Sudan.

Turkey blames

ANKARA, March 4, (Reuters): Turkey says the refusal by Greek Cypriots to accept political equality for Turkish Cypriots was the main reason for the failure of top-level talks in New York on reunifying the divided island.

"The basic reason for the failure is the fact that Greek Cypriots were not willing for serious and meaningful talks and have refused to accept the political equality of the Turkish Cypriots," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued late yesterday.

3 women killed

ANKARA, March 4, (AP): Suspected Kurdish rebels shot and killed three women in a village near the Iraqi border yesterday the independent Hurriyet news agency reported.

The dispatch said village guards in Baglica, in Hakkari province, opened fire on the rebels, killing one and wounding another.

Most of the rebels in the region are members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a Marxist group fighting to set up an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeastern province.

Since the clashes started in 1984, about 2,500 people have died. The casualties include rebels, government soldiers and civilians.

Drug charges

3 jailed

NICOSIA, March 4, (AP): Two Palestinians and a Syrian were jailed yesterday for possessing and supplying narcotics, the Cyprus news agency reported.

The semi-official agency said Khaled Ramadan, 31, was sentenced to four years and Adil Yousef, 28, to three years for supplying heroin and marijuana to a Greek Cypriot and possessing narcotics.

The Syrian, Soufan Azzawi, 34, was sentenced to two years for possessing 10 grams (one-third of an ounce) of heroin.

Amnesty in talks

AMMAN, March 4, (Kuna): The visiting Amnesty International delegation held talks here today separately with chairman of the upper house Ahmad Al Louzi and Speaker of the lower house Suleiman Arrar of the Jordanian parliament on human rights.

Both Al Louzi and Arrar affirmed that human rights are endorsed in Jordan by the country's constitution. They pointed to prevailing democratic atmosphere and effective participation of citizens.

The delegation's visit to the country came on the occasion of opening a centre for the international organisation in Amman.

Train collision

ANKARA, March 4, (Reuters): One trainman was killed and 15 other people were injured today when two Turkish passenger trains collided at Polatli 80 km (50 miles) west of Ankara, a railways official said.

The accident happened when the overnight train to Ankara from Izmir disregarded a red signal to enter the line on which the Ankara-Istanbul train was approaching, he told Reuters.

Railwaymen said the death toll was low because both trains were travelling slowly through the town.

Hussein in Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 4, (UPI): King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Baghdad yesterday and began talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on latest developments in the Middle East, Baghdad radio reported.

King Hussein's visit comes two days after the Jordanian monarch concluded a tour of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), reportedly to muster support for convening an Arab summit to tackle the challenges facing the Arab nation, and in particular the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Pakistan minister

BAGHDAD, March 4, (Reuters): Pakistani Defence Minister of State Ghulam Sarwar Cheema arrived in Baghdad today for talks with his Iraqi counterpart General Abdul-Jabbar Shanshal.

Cheema said his visit aimed to boost ties between the countries but gave no details, the official INA news agency reported.

Saddam called to review spy case

UK paper urges fair trial

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): The editor of Britain's Observer newspaper has urged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to review the espionage case against one of its journalists and a British nurse and ensure they receive a fair trial.

In a front page appeal, Donald Treford said Iranian-born reporter Farzad Bazofi was "not a spy for anyone," adding: "The scale of (Daphne) Parish's offence, if any, was the relatively minor one of assisting him to travel to a prohibited area."

Parish, 33, was arrested with Bazofi, 31, while he was checking reports of a blast at a military installation south of the city for the Sunday paper last year. Parish took him there in a hospital car.

Bazofi, 31, an Iranian-born British resident was arrested in September and charged with "hostile acts against Iraq" after visiting a military plant south of Baghdad to investigate reports of an explosion that might have killed up to 700 people. Iraq later said 19 people were killed in a fuel depot explosion in the area.

Mrs Parish, 33, is senior nursing administrator for the Irish-run Ibn Al Bitar Hospital in Baghdad. Both accused could face life imprisonment or death

if convicted at the trial which starts in the Iraqi capital next Thursday.

In November, Bazofi appeared on Iraqi state television and said he had been spying for Israel when he was arrested. Treford said the statement was made under duress and the videotape showed Bazofi was in poor physical shape.

"We feel able to say, as a matter of total certainty and without any fear of contradiction, that Farzad Bazofi is not a spy for anyone," the editor wrote. "Farzad may have been guilty of overzealousness, but not of perfidy."

"Even at this late stage, we plead with President Saddam to review this whole case and arrange for a full and proper hearing in which all the evidence can be heard and openly challenged according to the basic principles of international law," Treford wrote.

He said the Iraqi ambassador in London had refused to allow him or a British lawyer to attend the trial.

"This does not encourage the hope that there will be a fair trial, which is all we ask for Mr Bazofi and Miss Parish," Treford wrote.

Libya, Sudan plan merger in 4 years

KHARTOUM, March 4, (Reuters): Sudan and Libya have agreed to sign integration pacts to pave the way for a merger in four years, realising Muammar Khaddafi's long-cherished dream of uniting with Africa's biggest country.

Sudanese military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir said last night the pacts would achieve political, economic and security integration between the two neighbours.

He told the Sudanese news agency Suna after returning from a two-day visit to Libya — his third visit there since June — the two countries would merge in four years.

He said the proposed pacts provided for a joint supreme council, a joint ministerial body and a joint permanent secretariat.

"The proposal will be effective after its approval by the legislative bodies in both countries," he said.

Libyan-style popular committees set up in Sudan last year would be upgraded to legislative bodies to which the pact would be submitted for approval, he added, but did not elaborate.

Bashir dissolved Parliament after seizing power in a coup in June last year.

He said Libyans would be allowed to visit Sudan without visas, a right so far granted only to Egyptians.

NOTICE

The undermentioned personnel have left Al Mulla Group's employment:

Sr.No.	Names	Nationality	Passport No.
1.	Tara Singh Banta Singh	Indian	B042406
2.	Abdul Hameed Yousuf	Indian	E691549
3.	Malik Mohd Aslam	Pakistani	D384565
4.	Abdul Gaffar Mohd Qasim	Indian	Y498753
5.	Mohd Aslam Noor	Pakistani	D475589
6.	Nalupurappathil Aboobacker	Indian	A923509
7.	Manoj Datt	Indian	W797373
8.	Medhat Abbas	Egyptian	1041142
9.	Sutta Jarutaspemol	Thai	Q097774
10.	Mohammed Tahir Hory	Somali	221057

They are hereby requested to call at our Personnel Department for cancellation/transfer of their residence permits. The Company will cancel their residence permits after 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement and will not be responsible for any legal aspects related to them.

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1,000 balloons to be released at Amiri

Children to celebrate Rainbow Day

ON THE morning of Tuesday March 6 at 10 o'clock a thousand rainbow coloured balloons will be released by schoolchildren from the car park of the Amiri Hospital. They will be joining in the celebration of Rainbow Day — to mark the first anniversary of the founding of the Kuwait Association for the

Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH). KACCH is a voluntary organisation which depends upon the generosity of institutions and private individuals and enjoys the support of the Ministry of Health and the medical profession. It is dedicated to improving the ways in which the health care community responds to

the unique emotional and developmental needs of children in hospital. There will be a KACCH information bureau in the foyer of the Amiri hospital from 8.30-11.30 am and 4-7 pm on Tuesday 6 March. In the lecture theatre, Jim Kuykendal, clinical psychologist of the Charing Cross School of Nursing Lon-

don, will be giving a demonstration workshop for those who are interested, on the importance of play within the hospital environment, during those hours. For further information please contact the KACCH office, telephone 2464723.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri banquet

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah is to hold a dinner banquet this evening in Bayan Palace in honour of the Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his accompanying delegation.

Mwinyi visited HH the Amir in his office at Bayan Palace this morning to hold official talks. Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed Al Sabah said the talks focussed on bilateral relations and means of developing them in all aspects as well as Afro-Arab relations and issues of joint concern.

The discussions proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, he underlined.

Mwinyi also visited Kuwait Museum and Islamic Relics House.

Minister of Public Works, head of the mission of honour Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti accompanied President Mwinyi and his accompanying delegation.

Traffic exhibit

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi inaugurated last night an exhibition for traffic statistics and photos at the safety Society for Prevention of Traffic Accidents.

The exhibition is organised on the occasion of the unified GCC Traffic Week, currently taking place in Kuwait and other GCC states, and included photos of road accidents and statistics.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the society's president Eng. Sabah Al Rayes, members and representatives of GCC traffic departments.

Morocco relations

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed today hailed friendly relations linking Kuwait and his country which he said, "are based on mutual respect."

A local Arabic daily quoted Prince Mohammed as saying at the celebrations held yesterday for the 25th anniversary of King Hassan II accession to the throne that he is looking forward to visiting Kuwait in response to an invitation from His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

He added that the visit, which had been postponed several times, will take place next fall and will discuss Arab and international issues in addition to topics that will further foster ties between the two brotherly countries.

Prince Mohammed praised the stances of his Highness the Crown Prince and added that Kuwait's policy is renowned for "supporting Arab issues and serving Muslims."

Education meeting

RIYADH, March 4, (Kuna): The 3rd meeting of the rectors of the universities and higher education institutes in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries starts here Tuesday at the general secretariat headquarters.

Higher education methods adopted by the supreme council in its sixth session, co-ordination between higher education and development needs, exchange of experts among universities and encouraging scholarships for higher studies in GCC universities will be discussed during the meeting, a secretariat release said.

It added that the meeting will also discuss awarding GCC students equal chances for admission at the higher education institutes, co-ordinating scientific research and publishing university books.

Delegations received

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah yesterday received Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Marco Colombo, a delegation of the Arab-Italian Friendship Society, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Italian Senate and other Italian government officials.

The two sides traded talk on Arab-Italian relations and the society's role in enhancing them further and acquainting Italian public opinion on the nature of Arab causes, spearheaded by the Arab-Israeli conflict.



Italian-Arab society received

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossaimi met Saturday with a delegation from the Italian-Arab Friendship Society headed by the president of the society Franco Mallani.

The meeting discussed Arab-Italian relations in general and Kuwait-Italian relations in particular. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen and head of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry Faisal Al Mutawaa and a number of officials.

Expat students exhibit at KU

THE Expatriate Students Affairs Department at Kuwait University will hold the Annual Expatriate Students Exhibition on the square playgrounds in Shuwaikh under the sponsorship of the university rector, Dr Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib. The exhibition will be opened by the dean of students affairs at Kuwait University, Dr Abdullah Al Fahad at 9.30 am, Tuesday, March 20, 1990 and the exhibition will last for three days.

Director of the Expatriate Students Affairs Department at the university, Ali Al Faeeli indicated that the department will also hold a football match between the university team and the expatriate students team on Monday, March

19, 1990.

In an interview with a local daily, he pointed out that a large number of expatriate students showed keen interest to participate in the exhibition which is held annually. He indicated that the exhibition will include a large variety of popular foods and clothes in addition to posters from participant communities. In addition to these items, the exhibition will contain artistic and popular songs presented by participants, also cultural contests and symposiums. He said that the department welcomes the participation of all expatriate students at the university and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Kuwaitis in senior KPTC positions: official

THE chairman of the board and managing director of the Kuwait Public Transport Company Abdul Wahab Rashed Al Haroun has said that the company has been able to Kuwaitise all senior positions starting with the position of section head, in line with the general policy of the company.

He told a local daily that the total number of company staff was 5898 of whom 580 occupied administrative and supervisory positions. Of these, Kuwaitis constituted 24 per cent.

He said that the company is endeavouring to attract as many Kuwaiti personnel as possible through offering incentive allowances, scholarships and providing ample training opportunities in and outside the country.

Stricter control on foodstuff, water

PROCEDURES to develop and enhance the foodstuff charter of the municipality is about to be completed in relation to foodstuffs distribution and sale in the local markets, assistant director of foodstuffs department at Kuwait Municipality, Abdullah Al Shimmari said.

He went on to explain that all imported foodstuffs are subject to strict inspection to ascertain that they are fit for human consumption. Further, he said that such inspection is also accorded to all mineral waters.

The municipality has seven centres to control and inspect imported foodstuffs at different ports and airports besides checking of foodstuffs arriving through land borders. Three of these centres were opened last year, and all centres are manned with efficient inspectors who work round the clock. The technical staff at these centres comprise, agricultural engineers, physicians and qualified inspectors.

The methodology of checking involves taking random samples from these imports and sending them to the lab for test on bacteria and radiation. However, for the last few years no instances of any foodstuffs being contaminated by radiation have been reported, the official said.

He called on all co-operative societies not to purchase any imported foodstuff unless they ensure that the detailed report is sent with these imports by the municipality.

He disclosed that the municipality had destroyed about 650 tons of imported foodstuffs and turned back 1,000 tons of foodstuff that did not meet specifications.

CBK to continue diversification

THE chairman of the Commercial Bank, Hamad Al Hamad, has said that his bank continues in its policy to diversify and improve, the banking services and to train senior banking staff. The bank abides by policies of the Central Bank that aim at protecting the financial and banking system in the country, the official said.

He added that he is optimistic of the outcome of recommendations of the joint economic committee aimed at activating the

national economy. We are also optimistic of the stability of oil prices and the end of the Iraq-Iran war. He added that the report of the joint economic committee is the most important local economic event in 1989.

The committee aimed at activating the national economy and to develop the efficiency of programmes to settle the banking debts that are less than 250,000. This programme serves the national economy beside the parties. Hamad added that authorities should study the question of merging some banks together carefully before taking a decision.

Financial and banking establishments should be developed to serve the national economy and to be able to compete with regional and international establishments. He added that his bank is working hard to attract the national cadres to join its staff and also offer the required training.

UAE council session opens

ABU DHABI, March 4, (Kuna): UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan today opened the first ordinary session of the 8th legislative term of the Federal National Council.

Sheikh Zayed reiterated in an address, which tackled the country's accomplishments on all fields, foreign policy and stances towards current Arab and international issues and, UAE's commitment to its national obligations.

Sheikh Zayed renewed UAE's full support for the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle as well as backing for all Palestinian and Arab efforts targeting a settlement to the Palestinian cause.

The president expressed condemnation of the Zionist scheme which stands behind the current Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine as well as Israel's criminal and oppressive prac-

tices against innocent Palestinians.

In this regard, President Zayed called on the international community to adopt a firm position in order to halt the Jewish influx to occupied Palestine.

On the Gulf dispute, Sheikh Zayed, in the speech which was delivered on his behalf by his representative Ahmad Khalifa Al Sowaidi, renewed support for all genuine endeavours to resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The president, meanwhile, expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere of peace that is prevailing in the region following the halt of the Gulf war.

About the Lebanese crisis, Sheikh Zayed expressed concern at continuity of fighting in Lebanon and hailed the sincere efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco in order to stop Lebanon's bleeding and restore to it independence and

unity.

Regarding current global political, economic and social changes Sheikh Zayed called for evaluation of such changes and formation of a new strategy so that the Arabs would have an effective and distinctive presence.

Welcoming superpower détente, Sheikh Zayed called for promoting it but not at the expense of smaller countries.

President Zayed affirmed that the UAE people have overcome by solidarity all difficulties they have encountered and established a pioneer unity experiment in the Arab nation.

Concluding, the president reiterated UAE's interest that the Gulf co-operation Council would have a developing role and effective presence, adding that such a goal can be achieved through further backing such a grouping.

Planners discuss investment spending

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday chaired a meeting for the ministerial committee of the Five-Year Development Plan.

Planning Undersecretary Dr Abdul Hadi Mohammed Al Awadhi, who is the general co-ordinator of the plan and the rapporteur of the ministerial committee, said that discussions at the meeting tackled the priorities and costs of construction projects for the 1990-1995 Development Plan.

He added that the meeting, which was attended by ministers who are committee members, also discussed recommendations of the committee assigned with studying investment spending. This committee is headed by the undersecretary of planning and groups as members the undersecretaries of finance, public works and civil servants diwan as well as the assistant undersecretary for the data centre affairs at Kuwait Municipality.

Dr Awadi added that the ministerial planning for the plan decided to hold its next meeting on March 13 to discuss the general framework for the plan, and the plan for workers at the government establishments worked out by the ministry of planning and all government bodies.

The plan deals with the requirements of workers and professions in accordance with the different economic activities over the years of the development plan.

Sheikh Sabah left here today for Riyadh to attend the 34th session of the GCC Foreign Ministers Council.

Sheikh Sabah is heading an official delegation grouping Kuwaiti Ambassador to Riyadh Abdul Rahman Al Bakr, Director of Sheikh Sabah's Office Abdullah Saud Al Abdul Razak and senior ministry officials.

Building of border centres to begin soon

By Hussein Salameh

SEYASSAH has reported that the construction of the border centres project will soon be executed and is expected to be operational in 1991. Sources said that the project will include the construction of modern border facilities in Abdali, Salmy and Nuwaiseib which will support anti-smuggling activities.

The Minister of Finance Jasssem Kharaif meanwhile, headed a meeting of the committee in charge of following up the construction of this project during which discussions focussed on the design prepared for Abdali centre.

It is noteworthy that the Kuwait Stores and Refrigeration Companies had been assigned to manage construction due to their long-experience in the field, particularly since the project would also include the provision of cabinets to keep frozen merchandise coming to Kuwait before transfer to the importer in Kuwait in line with the regulation in force.

Phone agreement

ABU DHABI, March 4, (Kuna): Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain tomorrow sign an agreement concerning the use of the mobile phone in the three countries.

Owners of the mobile phones are required to re-programme their sets at the phones company in their country in order to advantage from such a privilege.

Tanzanian minister

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossaimi met with Tanzanian Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa today.

An official source said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and regional and international issues of joint interest.

Mkapa is accompanying the Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi who began an official visit to the country yesterday.



HH the Amir in talks with Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

Traffic accidents kill 300 in 1989: Aidan

Unified GCC licence still under study

By Lina Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AN ESTIMATED 300 people died and over 2,500 injured in road accidents which occurred in different parts of Kuwait last year.

Disclosing these statistics, Col. Abdullah Al Aidan, director of planning at the General Traffic Administration (GTA) said that the number of deaths registered a 5 per cent decrease compared to last year. The highest number of deaths occurred in Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates which is attributed to the density of population.

The official said that there were a total of 20,384 traffic accidents in 1989 with an estimated material damage of KD 50 million.

On a break-down basis in different governorates, 5,150 accident occurred in the capital governorate, 10,118 in Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates, 2,854 in Alhamidi governorate and 2,262 in Jahra.

Aidan said that out of a total 73,160 persons who underwent the driving test, only 44 per cent passed. A total of 39,481 driving licences were issued last year. Total driving licences in Kuwait stand at 740,626.

In 1989, 252,317 traffic tickets involving fines were issued, registering an increase of 9 per cent compared to 1988 with the following breakdown:

71.9 per cent were settled by reconciliation
21.8 per cent were referred to courts
4.1 per cent licences withdrawn

8 per cent judgement reserved
2.1 per cent pending for car registration

0.3 per cent referred to the juvenile prosecution

The official said that the total number of court decisions implemented last year were 56,637 — including 32,143 ticket fines and 24,494 related to accidents.

On the quantum of vehicles, the official said it included the registration of 52,734 new cars, 353,591 renewals, 260,930 transferences and 21,485 cancellations.

Replying to a question on the status of the driving school, Aidan said that construction will be ready in September of this year. He disclosed that the issuance of learners licences to the general public will be up to the discretion of the traffic

department. As at present, learners licences are issued to specific categories of people, the official said.



Col. Abdullah Al Aidan

department. As at present, learners licences are issued to specific categories of people, the official said.

Overspeeding

Meanwhile the director of the Highway Department Col. Ahmad Al Muhawer has said that a total of 10,356 tickets were issued by the department personnel during 1989, for traffic violations which mostly were over-speeding.

He told a local daily that the number of tickets issued dropped in 1989 compared with the number of tickets issued the year before, adding that a number of negative phenomena had been eliminated, thanks mainly to the increasing awareness shown by young drivers.

He said that four main highway patrol points would be constructed in different places on the highway network, which would be used as traffic control and supervision sites operated on a round-the-clock shift-system basis, adding that this would support the ongoing efforts to protect road-users and ensure their safety and security.

He said that department patrols would be distributing manuals and guides highlighting major traffic problems and shedding light on how to ensure safety on the road, as part of the ongoing traffic week activities.

Muhawer said that the department was determined to issue tickets to women drivers wearing the traditional Muslim face-cover, locally known as Niqab, and that this measure was intended to safeguard the country from dangerous elements, who would not hesitate to dress as women to gain easy access to different places in the country.

He stressed the importance of vigilance on the road warning against the recurrent accidents involving children riding in the front seat, and other violations

committed by non-authorized drivers.

He pointed out that public complaints regarding the presence of gravel on road sides which would be carried high by air currents on highways and damage windscreens, and that in response the department has arranged for cleaning road sides and tilling the area in co-operation with the Kuwait Municipality and the Public Works Ministry.

He called on all drivers not to drop paper-tissues or cigarette ends on the road during travelling or even allow their passengers to do that as this reflected bad manners.

He also criticised certain patterns committed by public vandals who would tamper with traffic signs and intentionally damage public property.

Unified GCC licences

In a related development the head of the Driving Training Section at the General Traffic Department Col. Yaqoob Al Omar has said that the idea of devising a unified driving licence format for all GCC citizens is still under careful consideration.

He told a local daily, on the occasion of the GCC unified traffic week, that despite the existing differences between the traffic systems enforced in the GCC states, the strategy remained the same and that is to ensure safety and security to all road users. Almost all traffic problems in the world were of similar nature, and that the GCC unified traffic week activities were carried out under the title: Safety on the Road for Children, due to the increasing road accidents which claim large death toll from young road users, the official said.

He stressed that careless behaviour of parents while driving reflected the lack of awareness which later would result in regrettable accidents. He said that not only parents needed education on traffic matters, but also students at schools would be best enlightened on traffic problems if they were provided with a course as part of their education syllabus to open their eyes to important facts and disciplinary procedures for guidance on the road.

He recommended organising the lectures and symposiums in this important area, pointing out that the existing driving tests were constantly being refined to obtain drivers of the best calibre.

Stricter penalties for traffic law breakers

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): The Traffic Department is currently studying a new law, which calls for stiffer penalties against violators of traffic regulations, particularly speeders and those who run the red light, department Director Brig. Abdul Hamid Hajji said today.

Speaking exclusively to Kuna following a meeting with its Chairman and Director General Barges Hmoud Al Barges, Brig. Al Hajji indicated that the Central Control Project, expected to go into effect in May, will ease up traffic in the country to a great extent and also guarantee a smoother flow of ambulances, fire vehicles and official motorcades in the country's various roads and streets.

He added that the project, based at Al Mirqab area, is an operation room linked to traffic lights with computers equipped with television monitoring screens, which would enable traffic police to open and close closing roads by remote control operation of lights.

Hajji affirmed that his department attaches special attention to the role of the media in promoting traffic awareness.

For his part, Barges expressed appreciation for the role played by traffic personnel, emphasising the importance of abiding by traffic regulations.

He said that the agency is ready to take part in promoting traffic awareness and highlighting activities of the traffic department.

The meeting was attended by director of the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department Col. Fahd Al Mokhlid and head of the public relations section at the traffic department.

Care for plants call

THE director of botanic wealth department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth Jassem Al Bader has called on the public to preserve their plants and take care of them. He also called them to irrigate their plants as required. Some of them do not abide by the time of irrigation that is suitable to the weather circumstances in Kuwait. He added that most fruit bearing plants can grow naturally in Kuwait if they are controlled and observed correctly. Experiments showed that there is the possibility to plant all of these plants in Kuwait. He added that one of the bad consequences of too much irrigation is the increase of levels of underground water that begin to leak to the basements of houses that are close to the gardens.

4.2pc increase in national population

Less Kuwaitis in private sector

KUWAIT'S population growth rate among Kuwaiti citizens is estimated at an average of 4 per cent per annum and the increase among expatriates is about 5.8 per cent according to statistical reports issued. The average dropped in 1987/1988 to 2.9 per cent and then realised a significant increase in 1989, estimated at 4.2 per cent.

The report commented that the increase among expatriates is based on two elements: the expatriate local birth rate

and the incoming immigration. The former constitutes 93.1 per cent of the total increase among expatriates and about 53.2 per cent of the country's total population increase.

The report said that the immigration influx had witnessed a decrease during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 and then soared by 1988/1989 in view of the increase in residence permits being granted to the private sector which amounted to about

28,000, in addition to the increase in the number of housemaids which amounted to about 20.7 per cent compared to 17.1 per cent during 1984/1985.

Further the report said that there is a housemaid for every five to six persons in Kuwaiti families and about one servant for every 33 persons among expatriate families.

Meanwhile, the report disclosed that family visas had drastically dropped dur-

ing the year 1988/1989 to 466 family visas only compared to 4,644 in 1985/1986.

The report clarified that the national workforce had increased during last year at 13.6 per cent and most of them were employed in the government sector which constitutes about 92 per cent of the national workforce. The Kuwaiti percentage in the private sector constitutes 7.3 per cent last year compared to about 8.4 per cent in 1985.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I'VE been working for an import/export company, managed by an Arab partner, since 1974. In 1975, my domestic visa was changed to work visa No. 18. I did not sign any contract with the company. My Ministry of Social Affairs papers show my salary as KD240 per month. Since January 1985, I have been receiving KD125 per month. From Jan. 1988, I am being paid KD150. The last salary was paid in October. I have not received three months salary—November, December and January. Can I claim the difference in salary?

Since I joined the company, the partner issued several cheques in my name to cash them for him. Will this effect my service benefits? Can this be shown as a proof that he has paid my full salary and service?

The Arab partner has been managing the company; the Kuwaiti partner does not take an interest in our affairs; he signs residence renewal forms only.

If I complain to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, or go to court, will they pay my service benefits. Will I get my end of service benefits and unpaid salary? The Arab partner is not allowing me to find another job.

P. D'Souza

THIS depends. If it is a company, the case must be filed against the company. If it is a firm, with a Kuwaiti partner, then the case is filed against both partners, and you must specify that the Arab partner is the manager of the company. Your case must first be referred to Social Affairs and then, if they can't finalise the matter, it will be referred to court, which will decide responsibility.

You are entitled to all the benefits because the company broke the contract by not paying your salary for three months; you can also claim the difference between the salaries that was paid and that was agreed to be paid.

You can also file a case to get the release from the Kuwaiti partner.

With regards to encashing cheques from the bank, if you have any witnesses to prove that the cash was given to the partner, and if you can prove, through witnesses, that most cheques were cashed by you were for the Arab manager, then the court will take into consideration in case of a dispute.

PLEASE allow me to congratulate you on your noble efforts in helping the needy through your column.

I had an accident at work in November, 1989. My left leg bones were broken. The accident report was made by our company's safety department and a police investigation was conducted. After 15 days in hospital, I was given a month's rest. I applied for leave and went home, where I had my injury fixed through a successful operation. My doctor

here was satisfied with the outcome. I'm still on sick leave recommended by the doctor in Kuwait.

Do I have the right to claim compensation? What are the papers I need? V.S.

YOU can get the final medical report giving the percentage of disability suffered due to the accident; according to the report you can file a case to get the percentage of disability compensation awarded by the court. And if you want to claim a higher compensation, you can make the claim. It is advisable to appoint a lawyer, who can guide you on how to go about making the claim. The matter must be dealt with through a court of law.

ONE of my friends was working here since 1979 in a book shop. Last year, the owner sold the shop and the new owner reduced his salary by 50 per cent. He worked for a few months and then left the job without the owner's permission and found employment elsewhere. A month later, he has charged with stealing money from the first employer and deported. In fact, the theft charge was not true. He wants to return to Kuwait.

Kindly tell me (1) Kind of deportees restricted from re-entering on the basis of reason for deportation; (2) Can he re-enter Kuwait at any time or must he stay out of Kuwait for a certain period; (3) What is the procedure to get a pardon. A.S.P.

A LARGE number of people hurt themselves, working against the law by turning it against themselves. Consequently, they lose their rights due to their own fault by changing the nature of their action into a crime.

At the time when your friend's salary was reduced, he could have approached the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and sought redress. As he had been working from 1979, he could have asked for a release from the new owner, which he could have got. By leaving the employer without permission, he broke the law and, thus, gave the employer a chance to take action against him.

The employer, in such instances, can adopt the legal way and have the employee deported for absconding from duty.

The question here is not on what charges he was deported but the fact that he has been sent out and now he cannot re-enter, and because he was charged with theft.

The only redress in such cases is to ask for a pardon.

There are two types of deportation: a written order from the Ministry of Interior or court judgement. In both cases, the person cannot enter Kuwait unless a pardon is granted by the Minister of Interior.

The law does not mention any restriction on the period of stay outside Kuwait. The deportee must write to the Minister of Interior, asking for a pardon by explaining the circumstances of deportation and expressing his desire to re-enter Kuwait.

THANK you for your help (Dec 18, Legal Column). I have another problem yet to be solved.

On Feb 4, 1990, I submitted to the company's manager requesting the difference in salary as stated in my contract. He reacted abusively, saying the contract signed through my embassy was a mere formality for emigration purposes. He said the recruiting agent has given in writing that I'll work for KD60. All this was done without my knowledge. Later, my company supervisors forced me to sign a memo saying that I "agree to work in the same position and accept a salary of KD60." This memo was countersigned by other company officials. Now, I don't know what to do. Please help me. X.C.

I CAN'T help you when you have already spoiled your case. You should have sought my advice before signing the memo. At that time, I could have offered some help. Now, after you have finalised everything you come to seek advice. There is nothing I can tell you now except that if you have witnesses to prove that you were made to sign the papers under duress, and that you would not have otherwise, you can file a case against the company and claim your rights.

MY relative is on two months leave. Due to some family problems he is unable to resume work and wishes to send in his resignation. He has over six years service with the company. He has asked me to approach his company with the resignation, in which he has requested me to settle his indemnity. Is he entitled to get indemnity in full? Should his resignation letter reach the company before the expiry of his leave? How should I proceed with his request to the company? Chandra Mohan

THE resignation letter must be handed in with the notice period — 15 days (private sector labour law) or according to terms of contract — before the expiry of the leave period.

The notice of resignation must be given in accordance with the labour law or the contract. You did not mention the duration of contract, if there is terms regarding the rights of an employee for breaking the contract.

As he is resigning, he is entitled to get half of his indemnity; and as he has over six years service, he is entitled to get 7.5 days salary for the first five years and one month for the subsequent years.

Cabinet discusses judicial draft law

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi today reported to a regular Cabinet session on last week's visit to Kuwait by Sudan's Health Minister Prof. Mohammed Shaaker Al Sarraj.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, was briefed by Awadi, who is also Planning Minister, on the outcome and recommendations of the 28th Conference of Arab Gulf Health Ministers, held in Riyadh last week, according to the government spokesman.

The spokesman, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed added that the government discussed and approved a draft law on re-organisation of the judiciary.

The draft was to be referred to the Amiri Diwan for ratification Rashed said.

The ministers also approved recommendations suggesting that real-estate loans of families of deceased debtors be forgiven, he said.

The council of ministers reviewed a minute of a recent meeting for the municipal affairs committee and decided to endorse resolutions adopted by the committee.

Nasser in Cairo to attend Arab labour meet

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed left here today for Cairo heading Kuwait's delegation to the 18th session of Arab Labour ministers due to start in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday.

He told reporters before his departure that the meeting is convening at a critical time, referring to international changes and challenges that characterised the advent of the present decade, saying they would certainly have their impact on the Arab nation.

"Foremost of those challenges was the Soviet Jews exodus into occupied Palestine under human rights pretext," Sheikh Nasser said.

He stated that the session would focus on inter-Arab Social policies, noting that the issue was a great significance due to the considerable decline in the Arab world's social plans during the past decade.

He warned the Arab countries were facing major social problems which endangered social safety and mentioned in particular the growing rate of unemployment, illiteracy and lack of care for disabled persons.

"Those pressing questions require collective efforts rather than unilateral endeavours to overcome our shortcomings," Sheikh Nasser urged, adding he would acquaint the conferees on Kuwait's achievements in social fields and the distinguished standard of social welfare the state was offering to its citizens and residents.

GCC Traffic Week gets underway in Bahrain

THE 7th GCC Traffic Week gets under way in Bahrain this week with the theme "Road Safety for Children."

Speaking at the launch of the annual week-long road safety campaign Traffic and Licensing director Sheikh Duaij bin Khalifa Al Khalifa urged parents and teachers in the country to stress the road safety message to children. The head of traffic, who is also president of the Public Committee for Road Safety, met the GCC delegates taking part in Traffic Week. The officials discussed ways of boosting co-operation between the GCC states in traffic fields.

A traffic ceremony organised by the Education Ministry was held in Isa Town School for girls. Among the programmes scheduled during the week as part of the Traffic Week will include a musical play at Bahrain Cultural Hall and the annual ceremony to honour outstanding drivers and a carnival near the marina club. There will also be a traffic quiz featured every day of the week.

Sheikh Duaij said that GCC Traffic Weeks had achieved tangible success in creating co-operation between the traffic authorities in member states.

In recent years Bahrain has been promoting a campaign to educate drivers and the general public to strictly follow traffic laws to prevent accidents leading to injuries and death on the island's roads. The move had also come in the wake of increasing number of vehicles and rising number of road accidents.

Kuwaitis don't save for the future: report

Asian savings high

ECONOMICS, basically is the life-line of all societies in the world and economics coupled with sound judgement of the "savings-habit" is of paramount importance to all individuals.

On this scene, economical openness experienced in all sectors is attributed to be one of the main factors which had led to a lowering of savings of both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.

What is noteworthy in this context is that the economical recession experienced during recent years, has prompted many to reconsider their saving habits to cater to future emergencies. Specifically, among Kuwaitis, the recent recession has heightened the need to appreciate the value of money, and to revert to traditional thrifty habits.

Despite the fact that a large section of Kuwaitis have become aware of what other nationalities have long understood, many agree that the psychological stability available for Kuwaitis and economical openness is mainly the reason that Kuwaitis are not encouraged to take a more balanced view towards saving for the future.

Conversely, other nationalities in Kuwait have a comparatively higher level of savings awareness because they believe that they have come to work in Kuwait in order to save up money and consider their savings to be the only reward for being away from their homelands.

A survey conducted by a local daily on a cross-section of communities in Kuwait, concluded that savings have different levels. The survey indicated that Kuwaitis remain at the last rung of the ladder in respect to monetary savings.

The survey attributed the reason to a lack of awareness of the principle of savings among

Kuwaitis, government retirement plans which induces Kuwaitis to take a complacent attitude towards their future and those of the future generations. Further, the survey said that Kuwaitis tend to project an "outer image" of affluence to society and tend to "splash" on luxuries. Some Kuwaitis, the report said go to the extent of obtaining loans to keep up an "unrealistic lifestyle."

Examples of Kuwaitis driving luxurious vehicles containing all modern amenities such as telephones, and not having KDI in their pockets have been replete, the survey said. Still, other Kuwaitis have got accustomed to living in luxurious surroundings and thus cannot come to terms with the need to save.

Some of the survey samples stressed that to begin in the right direction towards rationalisation and savings, Kuwaitis must at the outset cut down on the size of daily waste and uncalculated spending.

Those surveyed said that the definition of savings is different from one nationality to another in Kuwait. For example, it said that savings for Palestinians living in Kuwait is of paramount importance, particularly for those who live in the continued fear of losing their homelands. These Palestinians, and all Palestinians in general, bearing in mind the hardships they all face for the benefit of their children's future save heavily. However, most Palestinians do not deprive themselves of daily needs, but rather achieve a balance between spending and saving.

Luxury

Lebanese, on the other hand are considered to be a living example of those who live for the moment only — even though they do understand that this life-

style does eat away their entire monthly earnings. The survey indicates that they even tend to compete with the Kuwaitis in living luxurious lives.

Asians occupy the pole position among the list of communities residing in Kuwait with respect to savings. Asians have been known to deprive themselves quite often of the basic necessities in order to maintain the level of their monthly savings. The survey pointed out that Asians are able to adopt to the lowest living standards with the objective of saving the "lions share of their wages."

Ingrained

Egyptians, also work hard to save money for their future homes and are considered the lowest spenders among Arab expatriate groups living in Kuwait. Many labourers are Egyptians and in this group the habit to save is well ingrained. One of the reasons, the survey said is that they feel the worth of their earnings through hard work — often manual.

Meanwhile, the survey said that Europeans who come to Kuwait have good working contracts and enjoy several perks. Therefore, they are considered to be the highest savers in turnover.

Returning to the Kuwaiti scene, the survey indicated that Kuwaiti society in general has witnessed a considerable decline in the rate of savings during the past three years and attributed this to the "better economic scene." The survey estimated Kuwait savings dropped by 60 per cent. Further, it added that psychological stability of Kuwaitis is the main factor which discourages them from saving — particularly since the government exerts all efforts to implement the strongest retirement plan in the world.



Hamad opens Polish fair

Undersecretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry Abdullah Hamad Al Hamad inaugurated here today the Polish Trade Week with the attendance of Polish Minister of Economic Co-operation Marcin Swieicki. Hamad and the accompanying guest toured the exhibition's various pavilions that include different Polish industrial and trade products.

The fair, that will last for a week, is organised at the Mishrif Fair Grounds. The week aims at boosting trade exchange between Kuwait and Poland in addition to fostering bilateral co-operation between the two friendly countries in general.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Board Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait International Fair Company Mohammed Al Gharaballi, the Polish ambassador to Kuwait and other senior officials at the Ministry of Industry.

Urban plan to be reviewed

ACCORDING to a recent study, it is imperative to constantly review and upgrade the details of urban planning and national development plans in compliance with modern developments.

The study, prepared by the UN-West-Asian Economic and Social Committee, stressed the need to encourage young national cadres to work on different port sites.

The study summed up the current realities of work on different national Gulf ports sketching projections and recommending ways of how to develop these vital facilities in the future.

The study pointed out that the major problem facing these public facilities was manpower shortage caused by lack of available national cadres to operate in the fields of loading, unloading and machinery operation. The study pointed out that this is accountable to economic and social factors, mainly the state of affluence of families in the Gulf and the resulting reluctance of the national cadres to join work on ports, coupled with contractors who prefer to hire cheap West-Asian manpower.

The study also stressed the importance of co-ordination with other national ports by way of integrating services and also to co-ordinate with the departments of customs, fire-fighting and health.



Farwaniya model week opens

The second week of Farwaniya model governorate was inaugurated at a camp between Ardhya and Firdous areas Saturday evening under the patronage of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud.

The chairman of the council of Farwaniya Governorate, Abdullah Al Qatami addressed a speech on behalf of Farwaniya Governor in which he stressed that different social, cultural, and scientific

activities of the week will have considerable effect on developing relations between human being and the environment and said that the protection of the local environment is every one's responsibility.

Picture shows girls of various schools in the area performing one of the several acts and songs along with the national dance.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A USELESS life is an early death — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German author.

Punishment for defiance

Army sealing off houses

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank (AP): Palestinian matriarch Fatima Sufarin, 60, wept quietly on Thursday as she picked through the rubble of what had been her home for the past 41 years.

"I don't know what I'm going to do now," said Mrs Sufarin, a Palestinian refugee who was displaced for the second time in her life when soldiers blew up her two-storey house on Wednesday.

The six-room house was demolished to punish the family for the alleged crimes of Mrs Sufarin's son Imad, 25, who is accused of throwing a firebomb that wounded an Israeli soldier. Family members say Imad, who is awaiting trial, is innocent.

Houses

According to the army, more than 450 houses have been destroyed or sealed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

On Thursday, troops sealed three houses in the village of Tamoun in the northern West Bank, the army said. Palestinian reporters said the sealings made 16 people homeless.

The houses belonged to the families of three Palestinian men who allegedly carried out acts of sabotage in nearby Jewish settlements and threw firebombs on homes of several Tamoun residents suspected of co-operating with Israeli authorities.

The United States and other Western nations have sharply criticised house demolitions and sealings, saying the practice was a form of collective punishment and violated the right to due process before the law. In nearly all cases, houses are destroyed or sealed before a suspect has been tried.

Israeli military officials say the practice is an effective deterrent of violence, and that it is legal under emergency regulations dating to the pre-state British mandate period.

The demolition of Mrs Sufarin's house left 12 people homeless, including herself, her daughters Jamile and Wedad and their teen-age children.

Family

Wedad, 42, suffers from schizophrenia and has been kept in a locked room for the past 15 years because family members said otherwise she might harm herself and others.

Wedad on Wednesday found refuge in the Bethlehem Mental Hospital, which earlier had refused to take her in because of her violent outbursts. But hospital officials said Thursday that she would have to leave soon because she was too much of a burden.

On Thursday, Mrs Sufarin's family gathered around the rubble of the house, located at the foot of the Judean hills and near the site where the Bible says Jesus was tempted by the devil.

Mrs Sufarin, her white headscarf soaked by driving rain, was crying as she peered at chickens buried under the rubble and picked through the ruins to look for anything salvageable.

The Sufarins spent the night in a nearby small shack into which they had piled all their possessions, including blankets, carpets, wicker chairs, a grandfather clock and a refrigerator.

Lithuania leads way to secession

VILNIUS, USSR, (UPI): More than any other individual factor, tiny Lithuania's relentless drive toward independence may have laid the foundation for the ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union.

But its peaceful revolution and adherence to law, the Soviet republic of 3.8 million people, including 400,000 Poles and a like number of Russians, may have sparked a secessionist chain reaction.

It was the dramatic rise of the Sajudis nationalist and secessionist movement in 1988 that prompted the Lithuanian Communist Party to break with Moscow in December and declare its independence.

That move set the stage for other republics — chiefly Latvia and Estonia, which with Lithuania were incorporated forcefully into the Soviet Union in 1940 — to seek to alter their links with Moscow.

The nationalist turmoil extends from the Ukraine, a republic big as France, to the Somnolent republic of Byelorussia, where there are stirrings of independence with the emergence of the front of rebirth.

For seven decades, the Soviet Communist Party has been the glue that kept the vast country together. A split in the party now could mean a split in the country tomorrow.

Small wonder Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev felt strongly enough about the Lithuanian break

to travel to Vilnius in January to try to persuade local officials to stay on board.

Even as the sounds of turmoil grow louder in the rest of the Soviet Union, the most dramatic moves still are made in Lithuania.

Thousands of Lithuanians have refused to serve in the Red Army. The Lithuanian Olympic Committee is demanding that its own team go to the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Spain.

The government has announced a monetary reform that will replace the Soviet rouble with Lithuanian currency, called the lit. And it has established a general prosecutor independent of Moscow.

All are signs that Lithuania is already acting like a free country.

"Only the Lithuanian KGB, still under the Soviet control, has to be reformed," said Lithuania's Radzevicius, a secretary of the breakaway Lithuanian Communist Party.

Breakthrough

The breakthrough event was the parliamentary election on Feb 25, in which the Sajudis' landslide victory gave its members a majority in Parliament, which is expected to vote for secession.

Sajudis candidates won 72 seats in the 142-member Parliament and expect to take 20 more in runoff elections.

March 10. The newly independent Communist Party, backed by Sajudis, took 30 seats.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1496 — England's King Henry VII commissions John and Sebastian Cabot to discover new lands.

1684 — Holy League of Linz is formed by Holy Roman Empire, Poland and Venice against the Turks.

1770 — Crowds and British troops clash in Boston, Massachusetts, and incident becomes known as "Boston massacre" which hastens American revolutionary war.

1794 — Partisans of Jacques Hebert are executed in France; Polish uprising under T.A. Kosciuszko begins.

1796 — Revolt is crushed in Vendee and Brittany in France.

1798 — French forces occupy Bern, Switzerland.

1867 — Abortive Fenian uprising starts in Ireland.

1933 — Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party win greatest number of seats in German elections.

1960 — President Sukarno suspends Indonesia's Parliament.

1962 — European extremists in Oran, Algeria, raid prison and kill several Muslim political prisoners.

1966 — British Airliner hits Japan's Mount Fuji, killing all 124 people aboard.

1970 — Nuclear nonproliferation treaty goes into effect after 43 nations have deposited instruments of ratification.

1974 — Ethiopia's leader Haile Selassie, confronted by continued unrest, agrees to constitutional convention to create new system of elected democratic government.

1975 — Arab commandos land on beach at Tel Aviv, Israel, shoot their way into hotel and hold about 40 guests and employees hostage.

1987 — Gulf war intensifies as Iraq fires six missiles into Tehran and its air force attacks other Iranian cities.

1989 — Police clash with stone-throwing teen-age demonstrators in Gdansk, Poland.

Battle for independence

Kashmiris ready to give life

SRINAGAR, (AP): The appeal came from loudspeakers strung across mosques and by word of mouth: "100,000 people have taken shelter in mosques. They are hungry. We need food."

Within minutes, Muslim housewives collected their pots and pans. Within an hour, huge dinners of rice and vegetable curry were ready.

The food was passed from hand to hand across narrow alleys and from rooftop to rooftop to avoid Indian patrols, until it reached the mosques that dot this city of nearly 1 million people.

"The appeal was for food, and it came. If the appeal goes for giving one's life, that will come too," said Mohammad Ramzan, a 74-year-old retired government employee.

Independence

Muslims in the Kashmir valley seem ready for a full-scale battle for independence. The appeal for food came Thursday, the day government troops shot and killed at least 60 people during marches by about a million Muslims demanding secession from Hindu-dominated India.

It was the largest demonstration for secession ever in the Kashmir valley, a Muslim-dominated region where residents have chafed under Indian rule for four decades.

"Thursday was the watershed in the Indian government's efforts to keep the area under Indian control," said a local Muslim policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Look at this," he said, pointing at his police uniform. "This uniform there is a Kashmiri first and a policeman later. I am no more an Indian, and I will never pick up arms against my brother Kashmiri."

Urged on by militants, Muslims are starting to reject everything that is Indian.

Billboards with the word "India" have been vandalised. Indian banks report dwindling business. Many residents have set back their watches half an hour to correspond with the time in neighbouring Pakistan, an Islamic republic.

Many people have stopped wearing wristwatches, fearful of offending either the militants or the government.

"Why take undue risk? I just don't wear a wrist-watch anymore," a hotel doorman said.

Directive

In the last few days a new directive went out to shopkeepers: do not accept Indian currency. Instead, use the Pakistani currency that Indian sources say the militants are smuggling into Kashmir.

"Yes, we have heard about the directive not to accept Indian currency, but I don't think it has been put into practice," said an employee at one of Srinagar's top hotels.

"Indian currency is still legal tender, but if the campaign goes on the way it is going now, the day is not far off when we may have to refuse Indian money," he said, asking that neither he nor his hotel be identified.

Under orders from the main Islamic militant group, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, Srinagar's liquor shops closed or switched to selling



other merchandise. Cinemas also have closed, and one theatre owner said he was thinking of converting his building to a cold storage depot for potatoes.

The refrain of independence reverberates throughout the city.

"Before, we—the Kashmiris—used to think that independence was not possible. But now we think it is not only possible, but it is only a matter of time," said a Muslim high school teacher.

Romania

"It is sort of Romania in the making," he added, comparing the Kashmir independence movement to

the crumbling of the long-entrenched communist parties in Eastern Europe.

But Indian officials contend that fear, rather than a genuine desire to secede, has driven most of the people taking part in demonstrations.

"These are stage-managed for the press," said Jagmohan, the federally appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir, where escalating violence by separatist groups led to a government crackdown Jan 20. More than 160 people have died since then, and most have been Muslim protesters shot by government troops.

Letters to the editor

Personality cults

SIR: In the retrospective chronicles of the psychological domains of history, the prehistory of the personality cult syndrome can be traced back to the psycho-neurosis of the bourgeoisie. The ruling elite, obsessed by the passion of grandeur, and the psychologically impoverished petite bourgeoisie created the mystiques and myths of personalities. The notion was to impose on the masses the picture of the ruling elite as larger than life; this was the political culture of the reactionary ages.

In Pakistan, president Ayub Khan made the first deliberate attempt in creating a personality cult for himself. It was a sophisticated try, supported and planned by American image-builders. Ayub Khan, who promoted himself to the rank of Field Marshal (the first and the only in Pakistan army), authored the book *Friends Not Masters*, took advantage of Pakistan's limited military success in Kashmir in 1965, embarked upon the so-called "economic miracle" in Pakistan, and benefitting from his towering, looming, handsome personality, he attempted a full-fledged propaganda campaign to make himself appear larger than life. It started with the "Decade of Development" celebrations. Soon, however, the whole thing collapsed; everything fell flat-faced. The masses did not want the grandeur of Ayub's personality; it insulted their sensibilities because the issues that were confronting the people remained unsolved.

Personality

The Pakistan Peoples Party of late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto pursued the masses' issue while elevating the towering personality of their elected leader with combined zealotry. But those were very peculiar and problematic times. Though Bhutto was removed from power, his legacy remained; particularly, Bhutto's execution turned him into a political legend.

General Zia did not explicitly attempt what Ayub Khan had tried, though the late president made concentrated efforts at impacting Pakistani institutions. There are divided opinions on Zia's role; some consider it positive. However, the most amazing phenomenon of Pakistan's less than two-year democracy is that General Zia has posthumously become a political legend. In Pakistan, there is an explicit political doctrine, "Ziaism," built on the foundations of Zia's personality.

On the other hand, the elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan Peoples Party have embarked upon building a dual-personality syndrome exercise. The prime minister, herself youthful, is the first elected female premier of an Islamic state. She is daughter and heir to the legendary personality of the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, "Daughter of the East" as the book published in Britain has titled her. She was Prince Aga Khan's nominated student at Harvard, and now she is being assisted in her propaganda campaign by an expensive Washington-based image-building campaigner, an ex-fellow student from Harvard. These are all the components to paint a picture of a person larger than life; all the ingredients that mix for a perfect personality cult.

The fact is that there is no need for personality stature symbolism in Pakistan such as Bhuttoism and Ziaism, the polarized political forces at the moment. What we have in Pakistan is deprivation-ism, illiteratism, unemployment-ism, timeless political mismanagement-ism, emotionalism, feudalism, bureaucratic-ism, non-issue-ism related to phenomenon-ism, and a considerable opportunism amongst a host of other important "isms."

It is about time for the Pakistani leadership to fully comprehend the nature of the problems at the heart of the restless Pakistani polity and its endless vibrations of discontent, and come profoundly in touch with the aspirations of people, their issues and feelings. No amount of image-building can help solve the problems and issues that need to be dealt with prudently and in the spirit of democratic pluralism. In the end, people will ask the questions: What have you done to resolve our problems? Where are the resolutions? No amount of image-building can provide answers to these fundamental questions.

Pakistan is planning to host a cricket tournament in

the forthcoming months. It has been suggested to name it the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Cup (on the same lines as the Nehru Cup in India). Wouldn't it be more appropriate not to enable India and perhaps change the rules of the political game? Wouldn't it suffice to call the matches the Pakistan Cup? Wouldn't it be more reasonable to spend large sums of money on resolving the people's basic everyday needs than to celebrate almost on a regular basis something about the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party? Towing the party's line is one thing, but diverting major national financial resources and administration's human resources to image-building campaign is quite another matter. Restoring the late premier's place in history is not the responsibility of the elected government; it is the job of the PPP, and the party must separate this undertaking from the routine management of the government.

It would be advisable for the Islamabad administration to de-emphasize their rhetorical excesses and espouse a management-oriented approach to the Pakistan problems; it has been time and again proven that the masses in Pakistan have turned antagonistic to every government and political personality in due course of time because the people's issues and problems were not resolved.

Indeed the people's faith in the elected government is the only hope they have now; another disappointment and shaking of this faith would have disastrous consequences for Pakistan. Let the people and time decide who would ascend to the timeless eminence in the history of Pakistan and when?

Dr Haider Mehdal,
Kuwait University,
Shawath campus.

Pakistani expats

SIR: We have been flooded with calls and letters from the expatriate Pakistani community here in Kuwait on why so much importance has to be given to the 30 years of Pakistan Resolution when in the background the country is facing so much violence and bloodshed. Are APPROB priorities right?

The suggestion made is that should APPROB not concentrate on commercial and business projects instead of involving into philanthropic and academic activities.

For the general information of the public, we would like to be upfront and clear about it that our view is that Pakistan national integration and cultural heritage has to be protected by continued efforts and seasoning of the Pakistani Ideology.

APPROB effort is aimed at re-invigorating and rekindling the spirit of a nation which resulted in the historical Pakistan Resolution in 1940 where the entire Muslims of the Indo-subcontinent agreed to unite under the leadership of Qaid-e-Azam to struggle for a new homeland.

We, at APPROB, feel that Pakistanis abroad owe a great deal of gratitude to their motherland and, at present time, when the nation is experiencing testing moments on external and internal fronts, it is required of us that Pakistani nationalism be promoted above all other parochial slogans.

This, we feel, is the only way that our emergence as a strong democratic and developing nation among the community of nations can be assured and guaranteed.

APPROB believes in a broad-based unified effort with aim and purpose of "unity in diversity," where diverse political views can be subordinated and accommodated with a common view that all Pakistanis share, that is, the building of a better and stronger Pakistan with democracy as its way of life.

In light of the above, we believe this occasion is a chance for us to translate our efforts into reality by organising an academic seminar and providing a forum for the Pakistani community to pay respect to the leaders of the Pakistan National Movement.

APPROB is achieving multi-fold purposes in propagating the cause of Pakistani nationalism. First of all, it promotes a sense of belonging among the nationals and, secondly, in the background of adverse publicity which Pakistan gets due to biased reporting where the only time we see Pakistan in the news is when it is struck with tragedy, we are trying to create positive

media effect with the purpose that Pakistan and Pakistanis should be recognised as members of a developing nation that has to be reckoned with.

The last 43 years of Pakistan independence have been, with all its shortcomings, a great leap forward for the new nation. The phenomena of amalgamation amongst various cultures, views, and sects takes historically, a certain period of time.

We, as a nation, are quite determined, and there is no doubt that the slogan of national integration is gaining momentum day by day where people are discarding prejudices.

We might sound a bit optimistic, but to have hope where there is still a chance to make it is better than leaving and criticising our political parties and institutions, only exerted efforts and collective participation in union can solve myriads of problems faced by our nation.

APPROB's aim is identification of issues and development of pluralistic values, support of continuation of the democratic institution and process at all levels, along with it we call for strengthening of judicial establishment so as to enable our masses receiving swift justice because justice, delayed is justice denied. APPROB believes that all the above can only be achieved through massive campaign of education and eradication of social ills.

We expect that expatriate Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait will join hands with us in our effort to build a stronger and better Pakistan. Tolerance and accommodation of opposing views would yield constructive dialogue and will take us out of the present situation of despair.

Approb Executive Board,
Salmiya.

Indian School

SIR: We, the parents of some of the children studying in the Indian School, Salmiya, are deeply shocked and dismayed to hear that there is a proposal to shift the Senior Section (Class IX to XII) of the school from Salmiya to Mangaf.

The senior school has been in existence in Salmiya since 1972 and has been the nucleus for the development of the area as well as for the educational, cultural, and sports activities of our children. Hundreds of Indian families have settled down around this area, most of them with both parents working, because their children can have convenient schooling facilities up to higher secondary stage. It is at this level of secondary education that their children have to devote maximum time and effort for preparing themselves for the extremely competitive field of higher education. Shifting of the school will be disastrous for them; almost two hours each day will have to be wasted in commuting. Also, no one can dispute the fact that the present location for the Higher Secondary Section is central and most convenient for children coming from different areas.

The availability of more ways which will reduce the transportation time could be pointed out as a justification for the shifting. But this is hardly so, because during the peak traffic hours entrance and exit from the residential areas take almost half an hour each. Adding to this will be the waiting time and the transit time. Transportation charges will also be an additional burden on many families.

We are unable to understand why such a move is initiated now instead of a proposal to start another Higher Secondary Section in Al-Basra or Mangaf based on a detailed study of the number of children who will be inconvenienced and inconvenienced.

We would like to appeal to the school authorities to cancel this proposal which will create a lot of inconvenience to the children and set at rest the anxiety and concern of the parents.

Names and addresses supplied.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Army morale at lowest ebb

EAST BERLIN, (AP): East Germany's army has suffered a loss of morale, readiness and sizeable number of troops since the borders were opened and the face of the West changed from enemy to friend.

Even Defence Minister Theodor Hoffmann has conceded that reform has inflicted "many difficulties" on the East German Army, a frontline force of the Warsaw Pact.

"We are practically without subordinates," a senior army officer told the Associated Press. "The officers themselves have to walk patrols and service tanks."

Desertions

The officer, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the army has been hit hard by the desertions of thousands of soldiers through the open borders with the West.

Col Gerd Aperz of the Defence Ministry information office told the AP that reports of the East German Army's diminished readiness have been exaggerated in the West. But he confirmed that the wave of migrations to West Germany has taken its toll on the armed forces since the hardline communist government was ousted last fall.

He said well over 10 per cent of National People's Army troops are deployed in factories, municipal maintenance crews and in other public works to keep crucial industries and services operating, following the departure of thousands of workers.

More than 40,000 soldiers have left army service since Jan 26, when military reforms were announced to reduce the 200,000 troops to 110,000 by the end of the year, Aperz said.

Other Defence Ministry sources said only about half of the departures were due to the reduction in forces.

Increasing number of soldiers have been deserting to seek their fortunes in the West, or failing to report back from furloughs amid a noticeable decline in discipline and readiness, the sources said.

Capt. Olaf Marks told the AP that nearly half of the 2,000 soldiers stationed at his 23rd Rifle Regiment based in Bad Salzungen had left in recent weeks.

They joined more than 400,000 East Germans who have resettled in West Germany since last summer, having abandoned hope that living standards would improve quickly, along with political changes.

East Germany's rapid changes are being blamed for much of the decline in what was once rated among the strongest fighting forces in Eastern Europe — and the most strategically located on the border with Nato member West Germany.

Relations

Improved relations between the two Germans, and reduced tensions between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, have greatly reduced East German perceptions of a military threat from the West.

One young officer told the AP that many East German soldiers can no longer conceive of circumstances that would prompt them to take up arms against West Germany.

Hoffmann, addressing a session this week of talks among various political factions in East Berlin, said "the army should not become involved in parliamentary elections March 18 — the first free ballot since the early 1930s in the eastern part of Germany."

Expectations of imminent unification of the two Germans has encouraged the East German military to look for ways to co-operate with West Germany's Bundeswehr Armed Forces, which number about 490,000 troops.

Burdens

Military strategists from both East Germany and West Germany have been discussing ways of sharing defence burdens in the event the two nations are unified.

A joint East German-Soviet exercise near Berlin in early February had to be scaled back after some East German troops refused to take part.

Aperz confirmed that some soldiers objected because they "considered the exercise to be in conflict with the new reform character" of the army, but denied reports that the soldiers had refused to work with the Soviet troops.

East Germany hosts some 380,000 Soviet troops — the bulk of Moscow's 565,000 troops deployed in Eastern Europe. The presence of Soviet troops in East Germany has long been presented by the local population.

The Kremlin has not yet faced significant pressure from East Germany to pull out its troops, but a sizeable withdrawal is expected to be negotiated soon at East-West talks in Vienna on conventional forces reductions.

In the meantime, signs abound that the East German Army has been taking its responsibilities less seriously in the wake of reform and in anticipation of union with West Germany.

In search of hard currency to buy sought-after consumer goods during visits to the West, some soldiers have been selling their uniform jackets, hats and insignia at the thriving West Berlin flea market near the Checkpoint Charlie border crossing.

Quote me

"The unbanning of the ANC is a significant move but the release of one prisoner when there are 3,000 is not such a significant development. I have pointed out on several occasions before that the question is not one of armed struggle but of apartheid. It is not a question of sanctions but of racial repression. If the government gives us the opportunity we will move away from conflict and confrontation but it is for the government to decide. I am optimistic that the process of removing the obstacles is on and I will be surprised if in due course we do not succeed in removing the obstacles all the way." — Nelson Mandela.

"I know there have been times when you have said to yourselves, 'If these freedom fighters were not here, the economy of Zambia would have been different.' I ask you to bear with me in this process of the trade talks and the president's call. The summit is not a D-day for the call to Kaifu in the middle of the night inviting him to a California summit."

"It has never happened before. But I would like to interpret it as the friendship Mr Bush has for the prime minister of Japan. There is no direct link between the trade talks and the president's call. The summit is not a D-day for the call to Kaifu in the middle of the night inviting him to a California summit."

"We believe Saudi authorities enjoy a vast prestige in the Islamic world and can help Afghan people to end fighting and bring about peace. If desire then we would welcome it." — Al Khulaf newspaper quoted Afghan leader Najibullah as saying.

Movie stars sample doctor's 'secret magic' to stay young



Timeless: Morgan Fairchild — regular customer



Stunning Deborah Shelton won her starring role — with a little help from Gerry.



Goldie Hawn's golden looks were preserved by Gerry's workouts.

'Gerry's message keeps wrinkles at bay

IT'S the ultimate Hollywood workout... a visit to the discreet office of the "face doctor to the stars".

Using a secret massage technique, Dr Gerald Schneider's magic fingers smooth away those cruel old wrinkles from more famous faces than he cares to mention.

In his tastefully decorated waiting room, where music tinkles soothingly, the wall is adorned with framed photographs from patients whose faces are their Hollywood fortunes.

Goldie Hawn enthuses: "Gerry — thanks for all your goodness". And Britt Ekland writes: "Gerry, Magic hands, sorry — hands — from one happy client".

And there is also a signed picture of stunning Deborah Shelton, whom the good doctor modestly admits to once helping land a plum part in the top soap Dallas.

He explained: "I saw her prior to her getting the part. She was due to do the audition. I think it's true to say that I might have had something to do with her success. Deborah still comes in for maintenance."

But Gerry, who calls his work-out "face contouring", still sees a lot of his biggest fan... Morgan Fairchild. He said: "She started coming to me when she was 25, and she is a little older now."

"She looks marvellous and doesn't have a line on her face. She comes here once or twice a week to maintain her gorgeousness. After all, like all performers, her livelihood depends on how she looks."

When Morgan puts her face into Gerry's masterful hands, he does to work with a technique that has been described as "like playing a harp with a reggae beat".

On a recent visit, Morgan reported: "I've sent quite a few people to Gerry. I don't want to be mean, but I have a friend whose face was really sagging. It looked awful... she was like a basset hound."

Morgan, who had turned up for her treatment wearing a peach-coloured jumpsuit, went on: "I brought her to Gerry and, after a few weeks, I saw a major difference. And then we got her married off."

And the star has even included her face doctor in her beauty book, Morgan Fairchild's Superlooks. She writes: "An alternative to surgery is a technique called facial contouring."

Gerald Schneider, of Los Angeles, is the only professional I know who currently performs this method. He works with muscles of the neck and face, to tone them and counter the effects of the natural aging process."

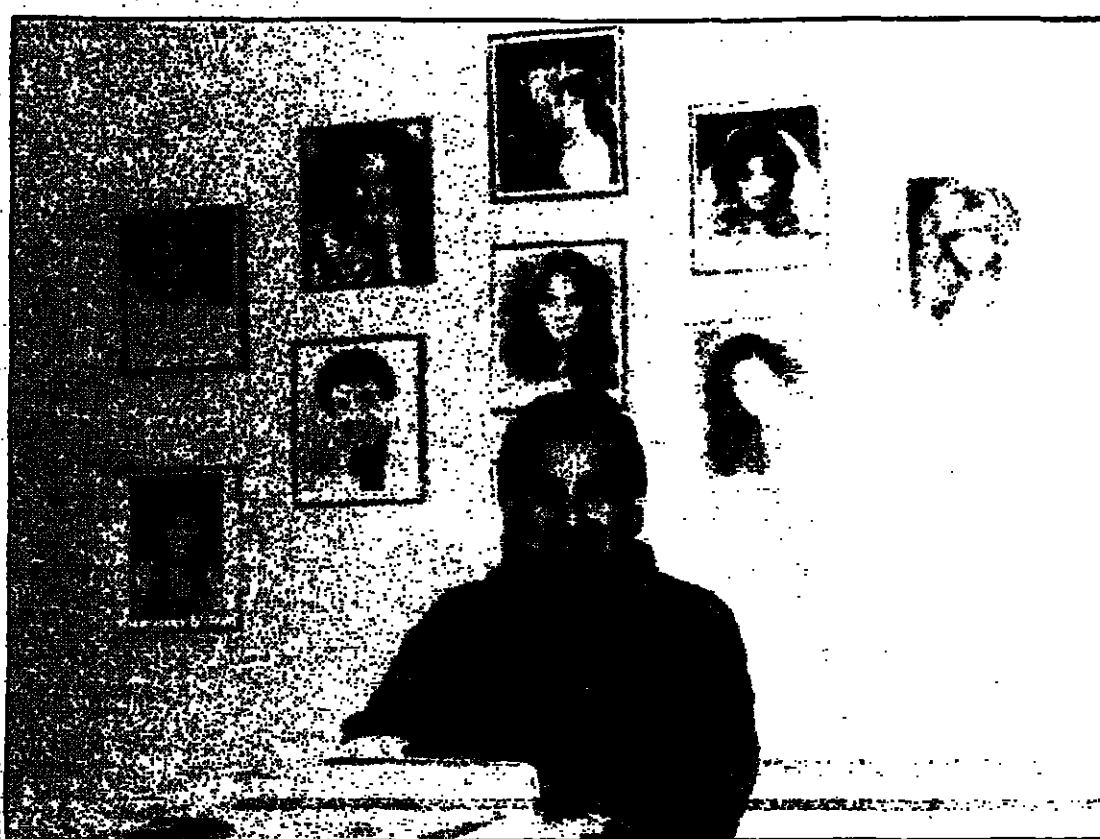
Key And that is the magic key to Hollywood success. Anyone who can stop the hands of time — or even slow them down — becomes as rich and famous as any of his star patients.

Dr Schneider, taking his air-conditioned ease, was obviously in no financial pain at all as he told me how he had stumbled upon his medical crock of gold by accident.

He explained: "as a chiropractor — a natural manipulator — I have always had a theatrical presence. In 1959 I was in New York, treating dancers and actors from the Broadway stage."

"Then one of the featured players in a show went down with Bell's Palsy. This paralysed one half of the face. I had already treated this girl for other things, and she called me up to ask if I could help."

"Using chiropractic techniques, it took me about three weeks to help this girl regain the use of the muscles in the affected side of her face. But,



Dr Gerry Schneider in his surgery with pictures of some Hollywood stars he has helped to face the future.

Do-it-yourself guide

Although you can't achieve the same results as Dr Schneider's magic fingers, here is the daily do-it-yourself guide he gives to his movie star patients for when they are out of town.

● Take the index and middle fingers of each hand and hold them firmly together, the middle overlapping the index.

Start rotating them outwards, like a waterwheel. Bring them up to massage the underside of your chin. This stimulates and increases circulation. Work up the side of the chin and then the side of the face.

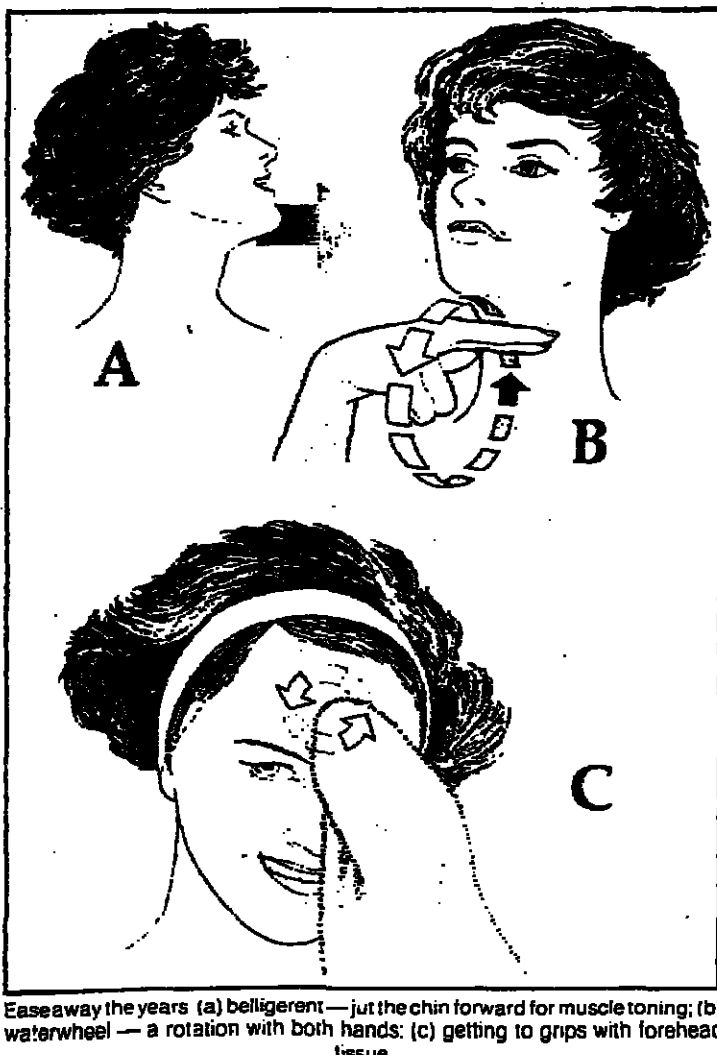
● I call this exercise for the chin line "being belligerent." Simply jut the chin forward, as though you are angry. This exercises the big, broad muscle underneath the chin.

● Do you need to work on the "labial lines" — the ones that run from nose to mouth? It is another simple exercise for the face muscles... simply keep puffing up your cheeks and blowing out.

● Getting to grips with lines on the forehead is tough. All you can do is stimulate the tissue there. After having a shower or a bath, take a towel and start making circles from the centre of the forehead, working outwards. Then do the same thing in the reverse direction.

Keep this up as long as your arms will let you. It will help to plump up the tissue.

because they had atrophied through lack of use, that part had lost its tone. "I had to do something to help. Her face was so important to her as she was on the stage. I asked myself what I could do. The answer was to use my background of anatomy, physiology and manipulation."



Ease away the years (a) belligerent — jut the chin forward for muscle toning; (b) waterwheel — a rotation with both hands; (c) getting to grips with forehead tissue.

"It was a case of trial and error. But, eventually, the formerly paralysed side of the girl's face ended up looking better than the other. So I had to work on the 'normal' side to even things up."

So, like so many more historic discoveries, face contouring was born by accident. Dr Schneider wisely moved his practice to Tinseltown, where looking good is something of a religion.

Sure enough, the stars made their pilgrimage to his Hollywood office, where he smoothed some of their worst worries away.

There was Marsha Mason, Lesley Ann Warren and Mary Ann Mobley. Best-selling novelist Sidney Sheldon's head has lain on Dr Gerry's cologne-scented pillow. Men and women gave each other courses as birthday and Christmas presents.

How much does it cost to work-out your face and hold back the clock? Gerry told me cautiously ducking the question: "When you think what it costs for other service people — like hair and make-up — I'm a bargain."

Moviestar clients are prepared to reach deep into their pockets when they are coming up to filming. For as Hollywood's face doctor pointed out: "The camera can be very cruel". An actor or actress, who wants to look their best for the lens, might come for a half-hour session on Gerry's couch every day for more than a month.

Other patients trek to Hollywood to make a surgical facelift last longer than its normal three to five years. Yet others try to ward off the evil day when they must face the surgeon's scalpel.

According to Gerry, the wisest people of all come in at 30-ish and keep the wrinkles at bay with magic treatment year after year.

Just what is "face contouring" all about? Gerry replied with the ease of one who has fielded that question many times before. He explained: "This is a technique of manipulating the muscles of the face to increase the tone."

"This makes the face firmer. When you are young, you have these nice, flat planes to the face. Ideally, I keep these for people as long as possible. I increase circulation, which is good for the tissue. It also stimulates natural oils to lubricate the skin."

"As we grow older, we lose tone in our face muscles... tone is the amount of contraction a muscle has at rest. Other things affect it too, such as harmful exposure to the sun."

Even our expressions take their toll. Smiles bring smile lines. Someone who is depressed is quite literally dished at the mouth. Frown lines are etched into the forehead.

Our faces are really the road maps of our emotions. And all these play havoc with the normal muscle tone of the face."

Dr Schneider just can't understand why the body freaks of Hollywood spend time and big bucks looking good, only to put on their clothes to reveal only their neglected faces.

So, after giving the matter a great deal of thought without risking too many frown lines, he has come up with an idea he hopes will give everybody the chance to have a movie-star face.

He said: "I am creating a machine for people to use at home. It is going to work exactly like my fingers do now. This is a technique that really works... but I can see only a certain number of people a day."

"It would be great to have something everyone could use for say, 15 minutes a day. I now have a prototype, and I'm hoping to market the machine."

So saying, the doctor invited me to lie on his couch and sample the magic treatment. He worked at just one side of my face for 10 minutes. I finished up feeling a glow, although I had just walked into a firelit room from a snowy day.

I peered into the mirror. Had those lines really faded?

Were Britt, Morgan, Deborah and Co. on to one of Hollywood's better kept secrets? The secret of staying young.

سلا على الألف

ARAB TIMES GRAND BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 76

PRIZES

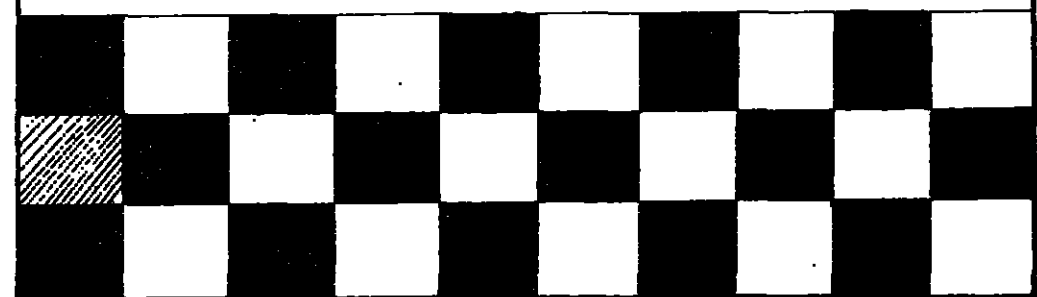
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2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
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4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
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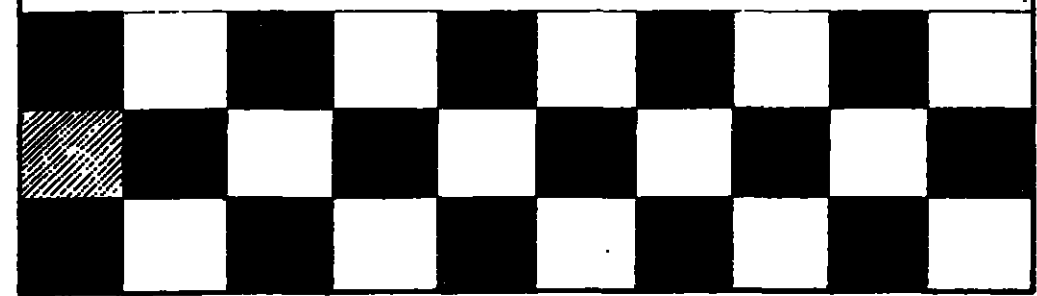
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ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: Bingo, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 15023 Safat Kuwait. A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

Cleaning up oil spills with Nasa technology

By Lynne Glover-Martin

ONE day in 1983, Joseph Resnick came home and threw \$43,000 on his kitchen table. "I want to invent, that's what I want to do," he said to his wife. The money on the table came from the sale of an apartment building he owned.

Today, Resnick is doing just that — inventing. He has patented the Container Tamper Detection Device (a tamper-proof bottle). The Resnick Tone Emitter (a miniature electronic "voice box" implanted in the dentures of individuals who have lost their larynx as a result of injury or cancer), and The Resnick Speech Teacher (a device to help deaf and hearing-impaired persons achieve better speech). And 17 of his 43

other inventions have patents pending. One of his more recent invention, according to Resnick, is "the most significant piece of work" he's done to date.

The Water Pollution Eradication Device (WAPED — pronounced wapid) just may be the solution for oil spills that the oil industry has been looking for. Resnick says WAPED is a biological product (a lipase-producing yeast strain) which uses a Nasa — developed technology to aid in cleaning up spilled petroleum product. "It's cost-effective. It's quick. And it's environmentally benign in its results," says Resnick.

"It works by encapsulating an organism into a shell," Resnick explains. "The shells can range from 23 micrometres 1000 micrometres (about 1/8 of an inch in

diameter). The organisms float along the sides of the Kornfeld Rotary Reactor (the Nasa technology developed in 1979), which then pushes the organisms out through the bottom and encapsulates them inside microballoons, along with a nutrient substance.

"As soon as the organism inside of the microballoon comes into the proximity of the oil, it immediately starts to eat the hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, or whatever else is in there," Resnick says. "Then it starts to emit increased levels of lipase. Lipase is the key here because this is what breaks down the hydrocarbons. It breaks the hydrogen into its constituent elements and everything goes into carbon."

Resnick continues: "Eventually this organism will eat so much oil and produce

so much lipase that the shell is going to explode. But when the shell explodes, everything contained in it, except perhaps a few microparticles, is organic and will be released back into the environment in a non-polluting, environmentally safe, natural state."

Resnick's company, Resnick Worldwide, Inc., signed a confidentiality agreement with Ashland Oil Company. In this agreement, Ashland Oil has an exclusive right to continue sponsored research on the Water Pollution Eradication Device until late 1989. In exchange for this right, Resnick has requested \$680,000 from Ashland to build a pilot plant consisting of two-top Kornfeld rotary reactors in which he could begin the encapsulation process on a small scale.

VARIETY

Britain's laziest man

Nick's in no hurry to stop yawning



Time saver: Nick irons just the front of his shirt... why iron the parts no one can see?

Life is one long holiday for Britain's Laziest Man Nick Johnson. Now, he is working hard — doing nothing — to become the World's Laziest Man, Kate Molloy reports

THERE is nothing Nick Johnson likes to do more than nothing.

For, with one title for being just about the laziest man around already under his belt, he is determined to take things even easier.

Now he's working flat out to prove he has got what it takes to be the World's Laziest Man. And he can't wait to start the "hard work".

Without even lifting a finger, Nick has already earned himself the title of Britain's Laziest Man.

But as he begins an official: "Nick Johnson go slow," the 39-year-old whose philosophy is "If you don't enjoy it, don't do it," is sure he can do little enough to be a world-class lazy bones.

Most of his friends on the other hand, reckon they won't be able to tell the difference.

Nick from Attrincham, Manchester explains: "I'm going to show everyone just how lazy I can be."

"They all thought I was going to lapse into a coma when I won my lazy title. But that was only a warm-up. I'll be surprised if I ever get out of bed again."

For the first two years Nick, who sells stationery, has been self-employed so he can take care of business between naps. His big hope now is that his girlfriend Helen Broom can earn enough to support them both.

He adds: "If Helen can keep me it would be marvellous."

"I'm a firm believer in taking all your tasks to bed. Then you can stay there for an extra hour without feeling guilty."

"I cannot understand why so many people feel guilty about staying in bed. Rest is the most natural thing in the world to me. I do it as often as possible. If I could do it all the time it would be even better."

But Nick, who was awarded his coveted Britain's Laziest Man title, by the organisation National Motivation, has recently had a rude awakening.

After his slothful ways were discovered he had to get up at the crack of dawn to attend an event sponsored by top businessmen to show he could work if he had to.

Nick adds: "Most of the things I do, or should I say don't do, seem very strange. But to me it is just common sense. Why put yourself to any bother if you really don't need to?"

"Taking ironing for instance. If you are going to wear a shirt under a jumper then you really needn't iron it because it won't show."

"If you are going to wear a jacket, then only bother ironing the front, it is the only part anyone will see."

Finally, forcing himself to get out of bed, where he insisted I

met him, Nick gave him his hard-earned tips on how to enjoy an easier way of life.

So lie back and learn how to be lazy....

Drinking

Always drink beer in halves because the glasses are much lighter and you won't get tired lifting them. That way you can go on drinking all night.

Also buy two or three drinks at a time to save yourself trips to the bar or get someone else to go for you. Better still, sit at the bar and then you don't have to move at all.

Repair jobs

Don't bother. If you get holes in your socks then wear odd ones. A sock is just a sock, why anyone cares so much about colour co-ordination beyond me, it is just a waste of time. But shopping is a tremendous burden — and very tiring, so never throw anything away. That's why half my clothes don't match. I can't be bothered to go out and buy any more.

Parties and socialising

The only reason for going to parties is to drink and eat. Not only is it enjoyable it doesn't use up much energy. Avoid tiring dances and tiresome conversation at all costs. If you come across a boring person who won't leave you alone, tell them you sell life insurance. They will disappear in seconds.

If that doesn't work the best thing to do is find yourself a comfortable chair and have a nap.

Watching television

The greatest thing ever invented, apart from the television, has to be the remote control. Keep it on your lap at all times so you don't have to keep reaching for it everytime you want to turn over. Then just put your feet up and enjoy a good workout watching the box.

Washing-up

Never use more than one plate a day. Never dry the plate after you have washed it because it will eventually dry itself. There is no need to put the plate away



Sleepy head: Everything is too much of an effort for lazy Nick, even yawning

because you will only have to get it out again for the next meal. The same, of course, goes for the knife and fork.

Shaving

Shaving isn't really necessary. If God had wanted us to be close shaven he would never have given us hair. If you are challenged, tell people it is designer stubble, or say you are growing a beard for a part in a play. That will always impress them. And keep you away from the grueling work of shaving.

Shoes

Trainers are best because they last longer and you don't have to clean them. If they are dirty it just looks like you have been exercising in them.

If one of your shoes wear out then wear one from another pair.

A shoe is only there to serve a purpose — to protect your feet. It doesn't matter what they look like, as long as they work.

Reading

Always get your books from the library so they don't clutter the house and you don't have to tidy them. Always choose authors whose names begin with the letter 'A', they are the closest to the checkout counter. And only get paperbacks, they are much lighter. The best way to read is in short bursts — it can be very tiring to read for long periods.

Gardening

It is ridiculous that people cut their lawns. It only encourages them to grow so they have to cut them again. Do as little as possible in the garden and then, only if it really needs it.

If you want to plant flowers then just scatter packets of seeds all over the place and some are bound to grow. Put the empty packets or sticks because they are usually very pretty and colourful.

Trying to impress

This is often known as posing. Don't bother, just be yourself. Trying to be someone else is too much hard work. You will waste time and energy keeping the image up.

Hotels

Always stay in a hotel where breakfast is an extra. If you have paid for it you will feel as though you have to get up for it. You will wish you had the extra time in bed afterwards — especially if the breakfast wasn't that good.

The best thing of all. Don't think that you can't afford it. Look at your situation and decide whether you need the money or just want it.

Nick has been living by these golden rules for as long as he can remember and admits he is very happy and content with his life. Although maybe it could be a little less hectic.

He adds: "Just follow the simple rules and I assure you it will make your life much happier and far easier."

"The good thing about my laziness is that I never involve other people. I would never ask my girlfriend Helen, to do anything for me. But if she offered I wouldn't say no. That's another one of my mottos, when people offer to do something for me I never say No."

But despite being a confirmed layabout, Nick is now proving he is not completely stuck in his ways. He has agreed to do the sort of thing he hates most, two weeks hill walking, orienteering and caring — to raise money for deprived children.

He adds: "I am not looking forward to it at all. I am not sure if I will even get through it but I must do my best for the children. At least I can be sure no-one will recognise me. After years of lying around everyone is bound to think I'll be safely tucked up in bed. All I can say is that I will be even lazier when I get back. And, for a change, I'm sure I will have earned a good rest!"

Paris traffic solution

Laser: a metro concept for cars

PARIS, (AP) — The French think one way of addressing Paris' notoriously clogged traffic is to put it underground.

"Like all the big European cities, we've reached saturation point," said Jean-Michel Gambard, chief of the roads department for the government's Centre of Urban Transport Studies and one of those reviewing futuristic plans for privately funded and operated underground roadways.

"There's a constant jam and all the classical solutions of wider roads and more roads aren't working. They just cause more congestion."

Prime Minister Michel Rocard has endorsed the underground concept, saying it could make more room on the streets for pedestrians and buses.

The idea goes back to 1987, when the engineering firm GTM-Entrepose submitted its plan to Mayor Jacques Chirac, at the time also France's prime minister.

Called the Underground Regional Express Automobile Link and known by its high-tech French Acronym Laser, the project envisions about 30 miles (48 kilometers) of roadway 100 to 165 feet (30 to 50 meters) below the surface.

Drivers will enter the system through 20 access points around Paris and its suburbs and descend into a tubular, double-decked road system with three lanes of traffic heading in both directions.

Traffic now creeps along at about 10 mph (16 kmph) but officials expect it would move at about 40 mph (65 kmph) underground.

Cars will surface at key points like the Champs-Elysee and the Montparnasse train station or shoot directly across Paris to the ring motorway that bypasses the city's centre.

Video cameras would keep an eye on the traffic and computer-controlled gates would close off entrances after accidents. Police and firefighters on foot could enter the tunnels at emergency entrances every 875 yards (787 metres).

"Laser is a metro concept for cars," said Andre Berto, GTM-entrepose's chief engineer. The metro

is Paris' subway system.

"We believe that in 15 or 20 years, each suburb, each district, will have its Laser station," Berto said.

Drivers would be charged a toll, ranging from 10 francs (1.72 dollars) at night to 20 francs (3.44 dollars) at rush hour.

"We are selling time to our customers," Berto said. "It appears there are a lot of people willing to pay. Sooner or later, all of us are in a hurry."

Mayor Chirac has expressed interest in both Laser and its chief rival, a project called Hysope submitted by the giant Bouygues construction group in December.

Both rely on private financing, with Laser costing about 16 billion francs (\$2.76 billion) in its first stages and the Bouygues project weighing in at 15 billion to 18 billion francs (\$2.58 billion to 3.10 billion).

The main difference between the two is that the Bouygues project doesn't let cars exit downtown, but forces drivers to leave their vehicles in underground parking lots — addressing Chirac's concern to rid the capital of parked cars.

Last fall, Chirac announced plans to eliminate 100,000 parking spaces to free up new lanes for surface traffic and discourage car ownership.

But neither Laser nor Hysope would cure all the city's transportation ills. The plans would eliminate only 15 per cent of the one million cars that come from the suburbs to the city centre each day, mixing in with 1.4 million already here.

Critics fear, however, that more space on the streets would only encourage more people to drive.

"The object should be to recuperate the places freed by the cars for other things," said Gambard, the roads department head. "It's necessary not just to have a road underneath the ground, but global plan on buses, pedestrians, parking and trains."

He added: "Before the war everyone rode bicycles. Now the cars make that impossible. Maybe someday we'll be able to see bicycles again."

Uranium industry

East Germans try to lift cloud of secrecy

SEELINGSTAEDT, East Germany. (Reuters) — Few things have spawned more rumours and caused more anxiety in East Germany than its vast and secret uranium industry.

Lung cancer, miscarriages, genetic defects, impotence — even hair loss — are more frequent in the southern mining region where the industry is based than elsewhere, according to residents and the Protestant church.

There are villages in the shadow of conical slag heaps or near dried-out radioactive sludge pools where people complain of permanent lethargy.

Sdag Wismut — the 40,000-strong joint Soviet-East German company that mines and processes uranium ore — is giving statistics and details about its operations for the first time, but few accept them as accurate or truthful.

"We want to lift the cloud of secrecy and sensationalism that has enveloped Wismut," said spokesman Frank Mueller.

"Our own medical service and doctors have no proof cancer, miscarriages and other complaints occur more frequently among the mining community."

Horst Jobs, manager of the firms' Seelingstaedt processing factory, said that

for 40 years Wismut had remained an elaborate state within the state, a secret arm of the communist system for strategic reasons.

Wismut's annual output of an estimated 4,500 tonnes of uranium is shipped exclusively to the Soviet Union and until this year was used for its atomic bombs and power plants.

"Now we are experiencing the disadvantages of this secrecy. We are providing data about environmental and health hazards, and they are actually quiet good. But people understandably say, 'why should we believe you now?' Jobs said.

"Let's be clear, this is not a chocolate factory," he said, addressing Westerners in his plant for the first time. There were risks as in other industries, he admitted.

Seelingstaedt's 1,700 workers process a still secret amount of ore each year, turning it from coal-like rock into fine brown uranium concentrate. Ore comes from six mines dotted across the southern East Germany along the Czechoslovak border.

At Paitzdorf, not far from Seelingstaedt, young miners ride in a tiny cage hundreds of metres underground to drill, blast and dig the slate-grey rock.

A constant rush of cool air circulates

through the long dark tunnels, reducing exposure to radioactive radon gas emitted from the ore. Water is used when drilling and sprayed everywhere to smother the potentially cancer-inducing dust.

Veteran miner Fritz Mueller, who has worked for Wismut since 1955, said for the first few years he shovelled ore and pushed wagons by hand. Now the ore is loaded into carts by mechanical diggers and hauled away by mini-locomotives.

"It's hard work but you get used to it," said 21-year-old face worker Joerg Andersch. "I only do it for the money."

He earns about 2,000 marks (1,200 dollars), almost double the average wage in East Germany, and enjoys other perks.

"The major worry is the dust, but we use a lot of water here," said Andersch.

Wismut miners register 160 new cases of lung cancer each year, but company health officials say 98 per cent of these occur in men who have been working for the company since the 1940s and 1950s when drilling was done dry and dust was everywhere.

A 1988 Protestant church report, the most detailed study of Wismut ever published, said the number of cases was still higher than average but gave no figures.

Ironically, it is the ventilation shafts that help miners underground which cause pollution above it by blasting dust and radioactive radon gas into the atmosphere. The radon dissipates but the dust settles on houses and agricultural land.

According to Wismut officials, the worst environmental problems are the dust expelled from the shafts and particles from dried-out reservoirs used for storing sludge from the processing plant and from mine boring.

Without minimising the pollution, they say radioactivity from such sources and from slag heaps is negligible and lower than natural radiation except in certain isolated cases.

For 40 years Wismut did not respond to reports and rumours about its operations and the hazards caused by them.

But in the last month it has scrambled to join the open debate on ecology that began with the overthrow of the old guard communist leadership last October and November. It is also promising to clean up its operations as fast as it can.

"We have a committee with the local people. They watch up like hawks,



Pillow talk: reporter Kate interviews Nick in his favourite place

Couple on horseback

Riding for peace from coast to coast

BUENOS AIRES, (UPI) — Travelling on horseback and with their dog at their side, Roberto Raffo and Bettina Bonifati are carrying a message of peace and brotherhood from the southern tip of South America to the northern coast of Alaska.

Raffo, a 33-year-old engineer, and Bonifati, 22, a painter and sculptor, quit their jobs in Buenos Aires and set out Feb 18, 1988, from Ushuaia, Argentina, on an 18,000-mile (29,000 km) journey that so far has taken them across the tundra of Patagonia and through Andean mountain passes to Chile.

"We didn't know anything when we started," Raffo said. "We learned as we went along."

If all goes well, they expect to reach Prudhoe

Bay, Alaska, some time in 1995 or 1996.

"We wanted to do something special," said Raffo. "So we're carrying messages throughout America from artists to artists, to contribute to the (cultural) integration of America."

In addition to messages from artists like Argentine writer Ernesto Sabato, the couple carry goodwill wishes from Argentine President Carlos Menem and Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti and Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle, promoting peace and a sharing of cultures.

"We want to give strength to people," said Raffo. "The horse is a key, a symbol, and we are a family, a strong symbol of unity — the woman and the man, and the dog, too."

For the couple, who were married in Rio Turbio in the province of Patagonia four months after they set out, the trip has been a mixture of beauty and frustration.

They show pictures of 8-foot icicles hanging from fir trees in the Andes, a vast green valley under deep purple skies in the Argentine Pampas.

"They speak of the perils and triumphs of their journey," Raffo said. "That was where we got lost," said Raffo, pointing to a picture of dusty rock canyons in the Argentine Andean province of Neuquen, that might have been Arizona or New Mexico.

"The farmer told us to follow the valleys," Raffo said. "So we followed them, and he said

when he came to a canyon, to go in and follow it, too."

Raffo said they lead their horses down a steep ravine covered with small rocks, to the banks of a river that ran at its base.

"We followed the river, thinking it would lead us out."

Hours later, Bonifati and Raffo came up against a cliff wall and the stream disappeared beneath.

"We had to go back and walk back up the mountain, sideways, because it was so steep," said Raffo. "It took us all day to get out of the canyon."



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

LUMP MAY BE BEST LEFT ALONE

QUESTION: My husband had a lump in his testicle. After prolonged nagging he went to see the doctor. The doctor held a light behind the testicle and said he could see light through it, so it was only a cyst and nothing to worry about. A couple of years later, without any reason which we can figure, that testicle has swollen to three times its size and has remained swollen. The doctor has said by telephone that if it doesn't hurt, don't worry about it. I would like him to diagnose sound pretty cavalier to me. I would like him to go to a second doctor. What do you think?

ANSWER: Your desire for a better explanation is certainly valid. Let's first assume that the mass is in the scrotum or sac, rather than a part of the testicle. Such "cysts" are common and are known as "hydroceles" and are filled with a clear, sterile fluid that results from overproduction or reduced absorption of the fluid produced by tissues within the scrotum. This fluid production may become increased when an inflammation exists, such as that following an infection or trauma.

Another type of cyst found in the testes is a spermatic cyst or "spermatocele" which lies adjacent to the testis. It is a structure that stores sperm. The spermatocele also contains sperm. It likewise allows light to pass through, as the doctor did during his examination, and telling this cyst apart from a hydrocele is often quite difficult. However, most doctors do agree that if these masses are not too big, and do not cause pain and discomfort, they are best left alone.

Needle aspiration, that draws off the fluid into a syringe, is, at best, temporary and may result in an infection. It is only totally effective treatment to remove these fluid-filled cysts is surgical removal, and from the sound of it,

plain old-fashioned nagging won't persuade your husband to undergo an operation he really doesn't need.

QUESTION: I have just been cured of my second episode with pelvic inflammatory disease. Now, the "good news" from my doctor is I'm at great risk of having ectopic pregnancy. Why? Are there other complications from PID?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, with every episode of pelvic inflammatory disease (also known as salpingitis), your risk of ectopic pregnancy or other complications grows. PID may cause scarring and adhesions in the fallopian tubes, which lead from the ovaries to the uterus. Normally, the fertilized egg becomes implanted in the womb. But it has to get there by travelling down the fallopian tubes. If it hits a scarred area, where the tube is narrowed or sealed by adhesions, it just get stuck, and the pregnancy develops outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy).

A woman who has had one or more incidences of PID may be 10 times more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy. Other frequent complications of PID include infertility, pelvic pain, chronic PID and pelvic abscess. Should an abscess occur, patients should be hospitalized and treated with triple antibiotic therapy. If the abscess isn't properly dealt with, there is a possibility of widespread peritonitis and it can be deadly. Your best chances lie in frequent checkups, including pelvic examinations and cultures to avoid future problems.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Oil market stability vital

Opec talks to smooth way for ministerial meeting

MANAMA, Bahrain, March 4, (AP) The weekend meeting in Kuwait of the Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil ministers on production and pricing will smooth the way for the upcoming ministerial sessions of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Gulf oil sources said today.

Hisham Nazer of Saudi Arabia, Isam Chalabi of Iraq and Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah of Kuwait met for four hours on Saturday.

Prior to the meeting, Iraq called for raising the \$18 per barrel reference price by limiting production in face of the world's increasing demand for oil.

Saudi Arabia has indicated it wants higher production. Kuwait conceded to intentionally overshooting its quota of 1.5 million barrels per day to keep prices from rising, while ques-

tioning the need for the Opec quota system.

A tight lid was imposed on the deliberations of the three ministers, but a terse statement by the Kuwait News Agency later said they were "in complete agreement that their countries should uphold Opec's resolutions and its endeavours to stabilise the oil market."

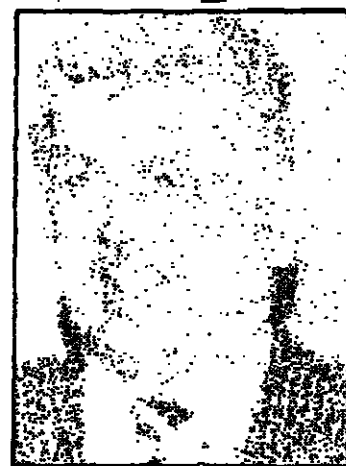
The statement, attributed to unidentified sources, said the aim was to secure the interests of all oil-producing countries.

The oil sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the Kuna statement indicated that the Saudis induced the other two Opec heavyweights to a common line.

The kingdom, the world's largest oil-exporting nation and the dominant party within the 13-nation organisation, has favoured moderate production



Sheikh Ali



Al Chalabi

and prices provided its own interests are not imperilled.

The Saudi minister stressed earlier that a common stance among the three was instrumental at the last Opec ministerial

An 8-member Opec market monitoring committee meeting is scheduled for Vienna on March 16 to review the situation half-way to a full meeting in June. Most if not all Opec ministers are expected to show up in Vienna for the upcoming meeting.

Since the November agreement prices on the world oil market have risen beyond the \$18 price, despite production well above the quota. Prices were buoyed by the high winter demand for oil, which tapers off in summer.

Saudi King Fahd and his ministers late last year, when the kingdom's fiscal budget was being finalised, expressed satisfaction with their Opec quota of 5.38 million barrels per day assigned for the Jan-June 1990 months. For the preceding years since the mid-1980s, there had been only dissatisfaction.

The king has left the door open for requesting an increase in the quota but has not given a time framework, and has insisted it will be always in consultation with the other Opec member states.

Fahd sent personal messages with Nazer to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi leaders, which the Saudi minister delivered respectively in Kuwait and Baghdad before and after the tripartite meeting.

Saudi-based diplomatic sources stressed the need for maintaining the healthy trend on the oil market. The trend is expected to vastly improve in the future in view of lower production in the United States and the Soviet Union as well as the anticipated oil demands of a reforming Eastern Europe.

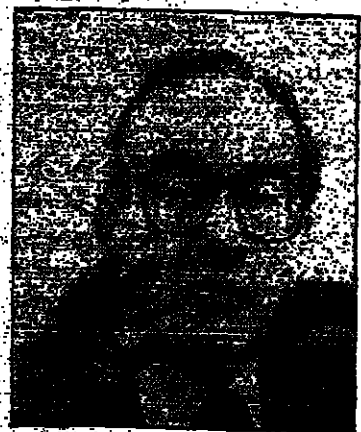
The sources noted that the kingdom also advocates a pricing

and production policy that does not upset the economies of its major trading partners, notably in the United States and Western Europe.

Nazer is heading next week to New York for the lecture circuit and the sources expected he will sound out prospects for a gradual increase in oil prices to offset world inflation rates. This would be in line with the proposal by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The sources said the proposed increase would most likely have to wait until after the summer season passed.

A major thorn in Opec's side will be the United Arab Emirates demand for roughly doubling the quota of 1.095 million barrels per day assigned at the November meeting, a quota it rejected. It is now self-pledged to produce two million barrels per day.



Alan Greenspan

Greenspan sees slow, positive US growth

WASHINGTON, March 4, (Reuters) Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday he expected US economic growth to be slow during the first three months of the year but remain positive.

His remarks helped give an added boost to Wall Street stocks that had already been buoyed by a government report showing the economy grew by a stronger pace in the last quarter of 1989 than had been estimated.

The Commerce Department Wednesday said gross national product (GNP), the total of goods and services produced, grew by 0.9 per cent in the final three months of 1989 instead of 0.5 per cent as had been previously estimated.

The revision surprised many financial analysts who thought Wednesday's report would show weaker growth in the fourth quarter.

Greenspan, testifying before the House Budget Committee, was asked whether he thought the first three months of this year would show similar results to the fourth quarter.

"I expect the growth rate to be slow but positive," Greenspan said.

He said the weakness in durable goods manufacturing made the economy like a tyre with a slow leak. On Tuesday, the government reported that durable goods orders plummeted by a record 10.5 per cent in January.

"That leak has ended. The system is no longer eroding. It has stabilised and has not exhibited any weakening," he said.

Greenspan told the panel that although the danger of a recession had been increasing most of last summer and into fall, "the period of highest vulnerability probably came in the fall."

He added that whenever growth is slow the economy is vulnerable to a recession, but that chances of one occurring anytime soon have dropped.

"I think the probability of a recession has slipped below 50 per cent," he said.

He also noted that the fourth quarter estimate for GNP growth is preliminary and is likely to be revised. "We don't yet know if the fourth quarter was below one per cent," he said.

Greenspan said in testimony last week that he sees the economy growing at a modest pace this year.

Polish minister meets Al Khalid

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna) The visiting Polish Minister of Foreign Economic Co-operation Marcin Swiecicki met here today with Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khalid on bilateral economic and trade co-operation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Polish economy against the backdrop of the recent political changes in Eastern Europe.

Khalid and Swiecicki also discussed how Kuwaiti investors can benefit from the new Polish laws governing foreign investments. The talks also touched on how Poland can gain from Kuwait's open market and low customs duty.

Early in the day, the Polish minister and the accompanying delegation attended the inauguration of the Polish Trade Week that includes different Polish industrial and trade products.

Oman to improve refuelling facilities

ZANZIBAR, March 4, (Reuters) Oman, which has already financed the extension of Zanzibar's airport runway to enable large jets to land, agreed today to donate a further \$3 million to improve refuelling facilities there.

Zanzibar was part of the sultanate of Oman until the late 19th century, but is now an autonomous Indian Ocean island in the United Republic of Tanzania.

King Fahd's message to Saddam

Nazer in Iraq for talks on oil policy

BAGHDAD, Iraq, March 4, (Agencies) Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer met with President Saddam Hussein today for talks on co-ordinating oil policy, officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Nazer delivered a letter from King Fahd on the issue, but refused to go into details.

The talks came a day after Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia met in Kuwait to discuss oil pricing and production quotas, two weeks ahead of a meeting of the oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna.

They declined to make any statement after their private discussions, but oil industry sources said a decision by the big three might give a clue to what Opec's 13 members would adopt at the March 16 meeting.

Iraq has urged other major Gulf producers to restrain production to achieve a higher price that the current \$18 barrel a target.

Saudi Arabia is reported in favour of increasing production above the 22 million barrels a day



Hisham Nazer

agreed on for the six-month period ending in June.

The kingdom was expected to demand a rise in its quota. The

United Arab Emirates has also said it wants a higher quota.

"Iraq is facing difficulty in selling crude, so it wants to compensate with higher prices," one analyst said.

"The Saudi position is that they stick to their Opec quota and expect others to do likewise," a Gulf oil official who is close to Saudi government thinking said today.

Kuwait does not want oil prices to exceed Opec's reference price of \$18 per barrel so its European retail outlets can sell more, the sources said.

But in the short term, prices are expected to decline gradually, due to personally lower second quarter demand and continued quota busting by some Opec members.

Eight Opec oil ministers will meet in Vienna on March 16 to discuss the quotas of production of the 13-member states of Opec and co-operation between the organization and the non-Opec oil producers.

The eight ministers are members of the Opec committee assigned with monitoring prices and

laying down a long-term strategy for the organization.

The committee groups oil and energy ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

Representatives of other Opec members are also due to attend the ministerial committee meeting.

The recent meeting of Opec oil ministers, held late last November in Vienna, decided to increase the Opec output to 22 million barrels a day during the first half of 1990 and on a base price of \$18 a barrel.

Opec sources said that the meetings of the eight Opec ministers would be decisive due to the conflicting viewpoints among the member states regarding continuation of observing the quotas of production.

The meetings are also viewed as important in the light of the radical changes that took place in Eastern Europe and the result of these changes on the supply and demand for oil and the policy of the Soviet Union which has been the main supplier of oil for East European countries.

Air industry needs more global link

WASHINGTON, March 4, (Reuters) International air travel from the United States and the globalisation of airline ownership are increasing dramatically, creating a need for reforms in airline safety and economic regulations, America's top aviation official said.

"National markets no longer really exist," Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) head James Busey said at an agency conference.

According to FAA projections released yesterday, international travel on US airlines will almost double by the year 2001, with boardings projected to reach 73.1 million, compared with 36.8 million in 1989.

The 5.4 per cent annual projected growth rate outpaces the 4.1 per cent growth rate forecast for domestic travel, where boardings are expected to reach 670.4 million by 2001.

And in a reflection of the growing economic importance of the Pacific rim, boardings for flights across the Pacific are projected to surpass transatlantic flights by 1998, the report said.

The increase in international travel is being accompanied by an increased internationalisation of the airline industry, including the ownership of airlines and the manufacturing and leasing of airplanes, Busey said.

That creates a pressing need for a more global approach to regulating the safety of aeroplanes, he said.

"We must find ways to harmonise national regulations so that we can be certain the adequate and continued airworthiness standards are being maintained for such aircraft," he said.

In addition, he said, the myriad air-transport agreements the United States holds with other nations often serve to stifle advances in the airline industry.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rates mostly firm

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded lower against the US dollar ending the week at 292.32 fils compared with its week before last closing of 290.14 fils. The KD was higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 489.55 fils compared with its week before last closing of 496.14 fils. The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 171.09 fils compared with its week before last closing of 173.50 fils.

The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 194.94 fils compared with its week before last closing of 196.20 fils. The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 245.60 fils compared with its week before last closing of 246.33 fils. The KD was also higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 221.87 fils compared with its week before last closing at 222.39 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.87 fils compared with its week before last closing of 431.11 fils. The KD remained almost firm against most other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short term interbank offer rates, as well as long term rates traded at the same level over the previous week. One-month, 3-months, 6-months, and 12-months interbank offer rates traded at 8.75 per cent same as the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced its new T-Bill, issue No. (98) of KD120 million, with effective and maturity dates of March 7 and June 6, 1990, respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street share prices moved higher last week, as the market's apparent ability to weather negative developments drew in buyers through the week. Technical and futures related buying firm bonds and renewed confidence about stocks fueled the rally. The Dow Jones Industrial opened the week at 2602 and closed at 2660, recording a gain of 96 points over the previous week's closing at 2564.

Shares prices on the London Stock Exchange firmed moderately last week as institutional buying and short-covering induced a recovery, which gained momentum when Wall Street proved resilient to Tokyo's fall. However, the rally looks fragile as trading volume remains comparatively thin, as people are still reluctant to commit money to equities. The Fise-100 opened the week at 2249 and closed at 2254, recording a gain of 18 points over the previous week's closing at 2236.

US dollar

The dollar traded firm over the week against major currencies especially against the yen. The dollar could have risen further if it has not been for the Fed who sold dollars heavily to prevent it from rising further, while the release of a record crop in US durable goods helped also to dampen the dollar rise.

US durable goods orders for the month of January dropped a record 10.5 per cent after a revised 1.4 per cent increase in December. The last comparable drop in overall durable orders was a 9.2 per cent decline in February of 1982. The January fall left durable goods orders at \$118.16 billion compared with \$131.95 billion in December. US durable goods orders are usually closely watched as an indicator of the economy's health which suggests continued softness in the manufacturing sector of the US economy. However it is unlikely that this figure by itself is to hasten any near future Federal Reserve move to ease credit further.

US Gross National Product (GNP) for the fourth quarter of last year was revised to 0.9 per cent against 3.0 per cent in the third quarter. The US Commerce Department previously reported GNP fourth quarter at 0.5 per cent. While for all of 1989 GNP expanded at 3.0 per cent annual rate. Furthermore US implicit price deflator for the fourth quarter was revised to 3.2 per cent from its previous estimates of 3.5 per cent. The deflator is a broad gauge of inflation that measures price changes on a basket of goods and services.

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6920/30 and closed sharply lower at \$1.6455/85 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.7030/00.

The UK currency fell sharply last week after news of much more than expected UK trade data for January which showed a trade deficit of £20 billion and a current account gap of £1.9 billion. December's trade deficit figure was revised down to £817 million from £1.1 billion, while the current account figure was revised down to £917 million from £1.2 billion. However, government officials said the figures were erratic and the three month trend of rising exports and falling imports gave a more accurate picture.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 148.60/70 yen and closed the week sharply lower at 150.30/40 yen compared with its week before last closing of 147.05/15 yen. The yen fall against the dollar has been partly attributed to pure speculation although its downturn, "was initially triggered by the Japanese stock market crash."

Apparently, Bank of Japan (BOJ) faces a dilemma over recent stock market as well as yen fall. The central bank officials who wish to boost interest rates to protect the yen, are worried that the stock market, which is already weak from the soft yen will fall further if Japan interest rates go higher.

Japan's January's current account dropped into a deficit for the first time in six years. The January's current account stands at \$636 million in deficit after a \$2.51 billion surplus a year earlier. The overall current surplus narrowed steadily in calendar 1989, to \$56.98 billion from \$79.63 billion a year earlier. Factors which were involved in the current account's current account were the initial effects of a weaker yen on exports, higher oil prices and slowing auto exports.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6870/80 marks and closed the week lower at 1.7185/95 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6780/90 marks.

The mark weakness was partly due to worries over German monetary unity, since it is feared to increase inflation. Later in the week the mark fell further after demands by East German central bank Hori Kaminsky that the 117 billion savings in East German marks to be exchanged at one-to-one for West German marks.

Other currencies

The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.7090/20 FFr and closed sharply lower at 5.8045/75 FFr, compared to its week before last closing at 5.6820/30 FFr. French trade deficit narrowed to 790 million FFr in January from a revised 2.44 billion FFr in December, demonstrating that the government's economic policies are working.

The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.4845/55 FFr and closed sharply lower at 1.5120/30 FFr, compared to its week before last closing at 1.4735/45 FFr. Swiss GDP grew a real 3.1 per cent in 1989 after 3 per cent in 1988 and 2 per cent in 1987.

The Canadian dollar opened the week against the US dollar at 1.1960/65C\$ and closed lower at 1.1992/70C\$, but higher compared to its week before last closing at 1.1983/88C\$. The Canadian economy, which grew at a surprisingly brisk 2 per cent in the fourth quarter, shows no signs of slipping into a recession. The central bank, which has tightened monetary policy in recent interest rates now as strong consumer and business spending risk fueling inflation.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices eased last week undermined by the higher dollar, the fall in Tokyo's Nikkei Index and selling by Japanese who needed cash to cover losses after sharp drops in Tokyo share prices.

Gold: Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$411.30/41.80 and closed at \$403.25/403.75 recording a loss of \$12.75 over the previous week's closing at \$416.40.

Silver: Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.22/5.24 and closed lower at 5.12/5.14, recording a loss of 14 cents over the previous week's closing at \$5.26/5.28.

Platinum: Platinum prices opened the week at \$514.515 and closed lower at \$507.50/508.50, recording a loss of \$17 over the previous week's closing at \$524.50/525.50.

Bid to control damaging rial slump

Iran to end attempt

DUBAI, March 4, (Agencies) Iran's Central Bank has given up an attempt to bolster the free market exchange rate of the rial, whose weakness is causing serious harm to the economy, Iranian bankers say.

In Dubai, the main centre for the uncontrolled rial market, the rial has slumped to peacetime lows of 1,400 to the dollar, traders said.

Stabilisation of the rial has been a central policy of the government of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, which has said exchange rate problems are at the root of the country's economic malaise.

The bankers said the Central Bank had stopped setting a special rate against the dollar for selected Iranian firms and government institutions which do business outside Iran.

The special rate was introduced in October to try to bring down and then stabilise the free market rial, which has for years fluctuated on the uncontrolled market at 15 to 20 times the fixed official exchange rate.

The rate, which was the official rate for all foreign transactions before the special rate was introduced, is about 70 to the dollar.

Iran's currency reserves of an estimated \$5 billion to \$7 billion (excluding gold) were too small to support the cost of the special rate scheme for long, Iranian economists have said.

The Central Bank found itself in the same difficulties as Western central banks which try to buck market trends by intervention.

"Whatever they did, it just gave a temporary shock of the market," said one Iranian economist.

In January the free market rate was 1,000 to the

dollar. Two weeks ago the Central Bank dropped its special rate to around 1,200 to the dollar without the normal public announcement, traders said.

That move signalled the Central Bank was effectively giving up its bid to support the rial, sparking a further fall in the free market rate.

Bankers said it was unclear whether Tehran would try any new policies to strengthen the rial, whose weakness has hurt ordinary Iranians by raising prices of imported consumer goods.

Iran's factories, neglected during the 1980-88 war with Iraq and still plagued by corruption, cannot meet domestic needs.

Western bankers in the Gulf believe Iran should acknowledge economic reality by devaluing the official rial rate.

"They need to face the pain of a massive devaluation. But then they would have to sustain the pain by controlling the ensuing inflation, or they would rapidly slip the way of a country like Argentina," said one senior banker.

In another development Iranian and Soviet economic teams today called for speeding up work on joint development projects, especially upgrading a major steel mill in the central city of Isfahan, the official Islamic republic news agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, reported that Iranian Economy Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh said Tehran was interested in establishing a joint shipping line between the two countries, which share the Caspian Sea, and buying new ships from the Soviet Union at competitive prices.

Nazer a key speaker

Business conference

WASHINGTON, March 4, (Kuna) Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazer will be the main speaker at a business conference on US-Saudi relations in the 1990s that will be held in New York next Friday, March 9.

The one-day conference, which will be attended by high-ranking American and Saudi businessmen, will examine the economic challenges facing the two countries in the coming decade.

The conference will conclude a three-day visit by a Saudi corporate leaders' group and is part of the activities that surround the New York opening of the Saudi cultural exhibition, "Saudi Arabia: Yesterday and Today" which has been on tour of the United States over the last year.

The conference, which is co-sponsored by the national US Arab Chamber of Commerce will discuss future economic realities and the economics of energy, US business perspective on opportunities in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia's development in the 1990s, and the US-Saudi relations and opportunities in the coming decade.

Amoco gets concession

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, March 4, (AP) The US oil company Amoco Corp. was awarded today an offshore concession for oil exploration in the southern Gulf emirate of Sharjah.

The United Arab Emirates official news agency Wam said the concession area covers 1,000 square kilometres (400 square miles). It said the agreement was signed by Sharjah ruler Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasbi and Amoco-Sharjah, a subsidiary that already operates the emirate's only field of Sajaa. Details of the agreement were

not released.

Independent sources put Sajaa output at about 30,000 barrels a day. Amoco-Sharjah will not release any figures.

Sharjah is one of seven emirates federated in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. It produces around two million barrels a day of crude oil, most of which comes from the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The emirate of Dubai is also a major producer.

Thai govt yields to union demands to stop privatisation

BANGKOK, March 4, (UPI) Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan has yielded to labour union demands to postpone plans to privatise parts of key state enterprises in order to improve efficiency and provide desperately needed investment funds, officials said yesterday.

The postponement announced Thursday night averted threatened strikes and work actions that could have crippled ports, power plants, railways, and telecommunications, but left the government with the problem of how to finance massive infrastructure development.

Chatichai said the government was forced to cave in to the union demands because of what he called the "weakness of the democratic system" in Thailand.

"I may be the last prime minister in our democratic system," said Chatichai, obviously disheartened by his concession.

Sources close to the prime minister said he was afraid rejection of the union demands would bring strikes and unrest that would allow the powerful military to step in to solve the crisis.

The government reversal followed weeks of labour agitation including a strike that closed down the country's main port for two days and mass rallies of workers at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

The port strike was halted only after Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh mediated the dispute. Chavalit is widely believed to be ready to retire from the army in the next few months to seek the premiership, an ambition the general has denied.

Chatichai said he had not cancelled the privatization plans, but had been forced to allow labour union representatives to have

a major voice on a committee to deal with state enterprises.

"From now on, any proposal related to state enterprise matters will have to be channelled through this committee," Chatichai said.

Ekachai Ekhanakorn, secretary-general of the State Enterprises Relations Group, which comprises 25 state enterprise unions, said he was satisfied with the government plan, but warned that agitation would be renewed if the government tried to back out of the agreement.

"This means that if the government tries to bring the private sector into any state enterprise it will have to be cleared first through this committee," Ekachai said in an interview with United Press International.

The new arrangement could have serious long term effects on the Thai economy.

Premier to face expected grilling by opposition parties

Kaifu vows to reduce trade imbalance



Mehdi Al Bazzaz

Expert calls for tighter control on public fund

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

MEHDI AL BAZZAZ of the World Bank urged Arab states to turn their central banks into independent entities as a means of running their economies, plagued by budget deficits, on sound economic and financial grounds.

The move could help control public spending and cut the budget deficit, Bazzaz, the regional co-ordinator at the Bank's Economic Development Institute, said. He is in Kuwait to attend a seminar on public expenditure management being held at the Arab Planning Institute.

The expert called for a tighter control on public money saying that Arab countries are spending more than they are earning. While the oil-rich Gulf states can afford to "paper over" the resulting problems the poorer countries are mired in a deepening economic slump, he said.

He proposed the states separate fiscal and monetary authorities to allow their central banks to make monetary policy decisions free of political influence, which is largely responsible for economic upheavals in the Arab world.

He also insisted that government spending policies should be open for public discussion, in different forums and media, instead of being treated as a prerogative of a small number of officials. "The public should have greater access to information and openly debate the pros and cons of public policies," he said.

Excessive public expenditure stems from a momentous growth of the public sector from the 1960s that led to oversized bureaucracies, heavy subsidies and poor investments. The overall picture showed the lack of control over the quality and level of expenditures," Bazzaz said.

As the spending exceeds the income the Arab states resort to printing more money, relying on foreign grants or arbitrary lay offs of civil servants. Each of these measures has only sharpened the crisis.

Among the remedies Bazzaz recommends are cost recovery measures such as health and education fees targeting the middle and higher income bracket.

Subsidies, he said, should be portioned out in the form of an allowance for the poorest sections of the community instead of cut-price essential foodstuffs at present available even for the well-to-do families. Privatisation, although still a controversial topic, is also promoted by the World Bank as a means of matching the expenditure with revenues.

Fund offer extended

SCIMITAR is extending the offer period for its Guaranteed Currency Fund to March 23.

Commenting on this development, John Kirkham, director, explained: "We have been very pleased with the high level of interest in the Guaranteed Currency Fund with many requests for prospectuses still coming in. In order to meet the demands of this group of potential investors it has been decided to keep the Fund open for investment for an additional 14 days."

Interest rates

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

TOKYO, March 4, (UPI): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu returned to Japan today after a two-day summit with President Bush in the southern California desert where he vowed to "firmly tackle" causes of the huge US-Japanese trade imbalance in pursuit of a "global partnership" with Washington.

Kaifu, who arrived at Tokyo's city airport on a special charter, will get little chance to rest from his trans-Pacific flight.

On Monday morning, Kaifu returns to the Japanese parliament to face an expected grilling by opposition parties over how he plans to honour pledges made to Bush to reform Japan's economic structure.

Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the major opposition Japan Socialist Party, blasted Kaifu earlier today for "accepting unilateral US demands" and "lack of his own individual diplomacy."

Yamaguchi said Kaifu showed his weakness by failing to tackle thorny trade issues on his own before being forced into a summit by Washington. At the conclusion of their talks in Rancho Mirage, California, Kaifu and Bush promised to attack root causes of economic tension resulting from Japan's almost \$50 billion annual trade surplus with the United States.

Although their rhetoric lacked specifics, Kaifu professed at two days of talks among the palm-lined highways of morning-glory country club to be satisfied the political will exists for resolving their economic differences.

"Nobody ever goes far enough to do everything exactly the way we want it," Bush said at a post-summit news conference. "But I think for those who understand the complexities of this relationship at this juncture, we got everything out of this meeting we had hoped for."

With the threat of retaliation hanging over US demands for more open Japanese markets, Bush said the talks left Kaifu "very aware" of the consequences of failure "to move forward" in trade negotiations now under way.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Bush apprised Kaifu of the "considerable protectionist sentiment" on Capitol Hill, but did not do so in "any threatening context."

In a conciliatory gesture, Bush accepted Japanese arguments that trade expansion is "a two-way street" that will require the United States to strengthen its own economy and take other steps to complete in world markets.

One-sided predictions any breakthroughs would occur on a set of such complex trade problems as separate the two countries, routed as they are in cultural, economic and political differences.

Indeed, both sides worked to minimize expectations and separate the meeting from the frustration produced by the sluggish pace of other ongoing US-Japanese talks aimed at removing the structural causes of the US trade deficit with Japan.

The determination to avoid

serious negotiations was evidenced by the absence of top US and Japanese trade officials from the Bush-Kaifu meetings. While specific trade problems were reviewed, actual item-by-item progress was left to others.

"I don't know that we need new ideas," Bush said. "We just need new energy on both sides."

But neither side could deny the timeliness of the two-day talks, coming as those concurrent negotiations near a spring deadline for interim progress, and as the administration weighs retaliation and the initiation of new unfair-trade complaints against Japan.

"Look, we weren't here to throw down definitive deadlines. That's not the way you deal with Japan," Bush said when asked when he expected progress. "But the sooner the better."

Japan, branded an unfair trader last May under "Super 301" provisions of the 1988 trade law, could be hit with sanctions in the near future if it refuses to open its markets to American-made supercomputers, satellites and wood products.

Last September, Japan and the United States launched a separate structural impediment initiative to explore fundamental causes of their large trade imbalance and head off any move by Congress to enact tougher trade laws that would only escalate tensions.

The US side wants Japan to increase public investment, encourage consumption, reform its land use policies, open its retail distribution system and end anti-com-



Toshiki Kaifu

petitive business practices to expand opportunities for US companies.

Japan, on the other hand, contends the United States has its own bad habits to blame — including a low savings rate, short-sighted corporate strategies, over-regulating and inadequate research and development — for any loss of competitive edge.

Told by Bush the United States will look to correct these shortcomings, Kaifu promised Tokyo's own efforts to expand domestic Japan's demand and market access for imported goods.

"I am determined to tackle structural reforms of Japan as one of the top priorities of my new cabinet with a view to improving the quality of

Japanese life with further stress on the consumer-oriented economy," Kaifu said. "I hope that the United States, on its part, will promote structural adjustment as the president has said."

US officials had looked to Kaifu to move the SII talks forward after the Feb 18 Japanese elections, from which his Liberal Democratic Party emerged victorious, to give them reason to sound a note of optimism in the interim report on US-Japanese trade due in April.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shigeo Takesaka said Secretary of State James Baker had emphasized that "a political decision from the very top" was needed to produce a "useful" report to propel the talks.

Senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official Mitoyo Yabonaka said Kaifu "felt the sense of urgency that Bush was trying to convey."

Before leaving Tokyo, Kaifu, who sandwiched the quick trip to California between appearances before Japan's Diet, or parliament, announced initiatives touching on some US demands. But his pledge at the time to "take every possible effort for progress" met with a certain degree of scepticism.

So too did the Dec 19 Japanese announcement of an "improvised" programme to spur imports of manufactured goods through tax credits, tariff reductions and public promotion.

The question unanswered as Bush and Kaifu met among the

playgrounds of the rich was whether Kaifu has the political courage to undertake economic and behavioral changes sought by the United States and, if so, whether he has the political clout to deliver them — in time.

By passing over some old-guard members of his party in forming a new cabinet, Kaifu displayed an independence that to some indicated a possible readiness to address US trade concerns and to others threatened the support he might need to succeed in such a gamble.

Asked whether Kaifu plucked out of obscurity last August to fill a leadership vacuum created by scandal, would be able to fulfil his promises, Bush was guardedly optimistic.

"He's just won a good victory there. He's solidified his party's position. He himself emerges as, I would say, a dynamic new leader. And so we simply wait and see," Bush said. "But I wish him well."

Bush tacitly acknowledged growing American resentment toward Japan, fuelled by the trade deficit and perceptions of a Japanese "buy America" spree that has bagged such high-profile bidding as the Columbia Freeway and Rockefeller Centre.

But he saw in their shared vision of an expanded "global partnership" a way for Kaifu to mitigate those feelings by helping support emerging democracies around the world.

Bush praised Japan for offering almost \$2 billion in aid to Poland and Hungary and that by using some of its trade surplus to back such US

foreign policy objectives as economic reconstruction in Nicaragua, a country ravaged by years of US sanctions and US-backed civil war. Bush said Japan could "help the US-Japan relationship."

Trade experts noted Kaifu's promise to act but said the Japanese had failed to honour such agreements in the past, citing promises to open the Japanese market to US semiconductors and construction services.

Summit meetings are usually finely tuned by officials far ahead of time, but the Bush-Kaifu session was set only one week ago — shortly after Kaifu won parliamentary election, giving him a firmer leadership footing.

The fact that Bush asked for the meeting at such short notice and that Kaifu readily accepted showed the extent of the strains threatening US-Japanese ties.

Bush's remarks indicated, however, that the meeting may have paid off in producing some changes in Japan.

"We're facing some important deadlines, and the prime minister and I are calling on our officials to redouble their efforts to achieve meaningful interim and final results," the President said.

Some officials said this might constitute the matching overtures that US and Japanese negotiators need to break an impasse and resolve the nagging issues that are straining relations between the two big economic powers.

Governments urged to reassure investors

Experts call to step up inter-Arab investment

KUWAIT, March 4, (Reuters): Arab investment experts met in Kuwait today to discuss ways of boosting inter-Arab commercial investment, which they say plunged by 50 per cent during the 1980s.

"The problems and impediments that face Arab private investment flows are manifold," said Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan, head of the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC).

"While we (agree) they exist we differ on determining their relative importance," he told the IAIGC-sponsored conference. "It is also difficult to deal with those issues in the absence of basic documented facts."

Hassan said that during the 1980s commercial investment within the Arab world plunged to



Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan

around \$3 billion from 6.2 billion in the previous decade.

A sharp fall in surplus capital due to lower oil prices was a major factor but political ins-

stability and a generally unfavourable investment climate were also obstacles, he said.

Mohiedin Al Haroubi, chief executive of Egypt's Investment Authority, said the dominant role of public sector spending in many Arab countries limited project opportunities and the power of investment agencies to approve projects independently.

Investment laws should not differentiate between foreigners and nationals or limit the stake of foreign firms in local projects, he said.

Governments should reassure private investors that there would be no interference in their projects and investment agencies should process work permits for foreigners more quickly, he said.

"Investors are reluctant to go to agencies which have routine bureaucratic problems like

these," he said.

IAIGC operation director Abdelrahman Taha told Reuters the total value of contracts signed by the firm during 1989 fell to \$99 million from 239 million in 1988.

He said this was mainly due to the fact that the IAIGC — owned by 22 Arab governments — had reached its exposure ceiling for Iraq, which had provided most of the demand for guarantee cover.

"The problem in the Arab world is that countries which have money don't have investment opportunities while the countries which do, don't have any money," he said.

The IAIGC was set up in 1974 to encourage investment flows between Arab states by providing guarantees for non-commercial risks such as nationalisation, non-repatriation of capital and war.

Bonn tells economists to bury their misgivings

BONN, March 4, (Reuters): The prospect of rapid currency union between the two Germanys is packing world money markets but Bonn is telling West German economists to bury their misgivings and rally behind the national cause.

"What German economists do well is analysis, but what we need now is action," said Horst Teltschik, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's foreign policy adviser, at a banking conference in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Currency union between the two Germanys, a first step to political union, is to be discussed by a joint East-West German commission on Monday, which hopes to hammer out the best way of introducing the West German mark into East Germany.

Bonn deputy government spokesman Dieter Vogel said today that no final decisions will be made until after East Germany's first free elections on March 18. But this is unlikely to calm the nerves of the international money markets.

West German economists share these concerns that rapid currency union could bring huge costs, weaken the powerful West German mark and spur inflation. They urged Bonn last month to adopt a more gradual process.

But in a letter to the government's main economic advisers and the country's five leading economic research institutes, which rely on government research contracts, Bonn says they must fall into line.

History had overtaken the step-by-step plans laid out by the country's economists as the safest way of achieving currency union, it said.

"As (Kremlin leader Mikhail) Gorbachev said: 'Who comes too late is punished by life.' In this case by being ignored," said State Secretary Otto Schlecht, the economics ministry's senior civil servant.

In the letter, made available to Reuters, Schlecht outlines seven points on which the Bonn government needs research on quick currency union.

Bonn wants speedy currency union because it believes this will stop East Germany from fleeing its country's economic collapse. The 2,000 arriving daily are placing huge strains on West Germany's social security system.

Enimont assembly adjourns again

Expansion plan unveiled

MILAN, March 4, (Reuters): Troubled Italian chemicals joint venture Enimont Spa postponed for a third time a decision on a controversial request by private sector partner Montedison Spa to add two board seats for private investors.

State energy giant Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), which with Montedison jointly controls 80 per cent of Enimont, accepted the adjournment to review a sweeping expansion plan announced by Montedison chairman Raul Gardini at a two-hour shareholders meeting on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned until March 28. It was the third time in a week that a decision had been deferred on Gardini's proposal to add two new members to the evenly-divided 10-seat board to represent private investors.

Gardini proposed incorporating in Enimont all of Montedison's remaining chemicals businesses, worth around five trillion lire (\$3.8 billion), to help compete better on world markets.

"I don't believe in Enimont's (size) as it is now," he told journalists after the meeting. "The new Enimont has to adapt itself to new operating methods in line with its new position on the market and with private management."

Gardini said the transfer would be part of a 10 trillion lire (\$8 billion) capital increase involving the issue of shares and bonds, but he gave no other details.

Enimont started operating a year ago and ranks

about 10th among global chemicals groups, but it has been plagued by rows between the two senior partners. The latest was touched off by Gardini's request to add two new board members to represent private investors.

The government views the move as an attempt by Gardini to seize control of the joint venture, whose chairman Lorenzo Nacci resigned earlier this week due to the conflict.

Gardini told shareholders Enimont needed the huge capital increase must get off the ground before August.

He said Montedison proposed to shift most of the remaining chemicals units into Enimont, including US polypropylene producer Himont Inc and chemicals unit Ausimont N.V.

A separate extraordinary shareholders meeting would have to be called to approve the Enimont capital project.

After the meeting, ENI chairman Gabriele Cagliari reacted coolly to Gardini's project, saying it would have to be studied by ENI's executive committee and the government.

He said ENI may submit a counterproposal and he did not exclude that ENI would agree to participate in a future capital increase. "We have the liquidity available, we have the industrial strength," Cagliari said.

Algeria's private sector revolts against bureaucracy

ORAN, Algeria, March 4, (Reuters): With millions of athletic youths in a country offering little in the way of soccer, track or running shoes, Bachir Benamar was sure he had a winner when he applied for a permit to build a sports shoe factory in 1986.

Four years later, only birds inhabit his shiny new factory in an industrial zone outside Oran, a victim of what he says is prejudice and bureaucracy in the bloated public sector.

Before political liberalisation swept Algeria, he had fuelled an already fiery debate on sweeping economic reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid.

"Are they seeking to destabilise the public sector, the spine of economic and social recovery?" asked a group of state trading monopolies which the private bosses, now grouped

in an employers' union, want disbanded. Pariahs of economic development in the 1960s and 1970s, the private entrepreneurs are showing unprecedented militancy in the battle for reform against the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

"Algeria is at the crossroads," said Ahmed Bensoudou, Oran's textile king and president of the Oran Chamber of Commerce which organised the mid-February lock-out.

"This creates tension between those who want to prolong, directly or indirectly, the old collectivist system, and those who want a system of individual initiative."

Chadli launched reforms in the mid-1980s to spur productivity by dismantling the centralised system put in place by his predecessor Houari Boumedienne, giving state firms autonomy over management and finance.

The reforms have acquired greater urgency in recent years because of mounting social unrest and deepening economic crisis caused in large part by a crushing foreign debt burden that absorbs most oil and gas revenue.

The programme of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche calls for abolishing state trading monopolies, putting public and private firms on the same footing, and attracting foreign invest-

ment. But the reforms have only partially been put into practice because of resistance from FLN hardliners and entrenched interests who feel their livelihood is threatened.

"Collectivists are blocking the wheels. They are leaving the state in the hands of total bureaucracy. We industrialists want those wheels to turn," Bensoudou said.

Bensoudou said tens of thousands of textile jobs could be lost in the Oran region because the state yarn monopoly Enaditex does not have enough imported raw material to go round.

"We are being asphyxiated," said Farid Ben Hassel, one of the organisers of the Feb 14 founding conference in Algiers of the National Council of Algerian Employers.

Since spending 20 million dinars (\$2.5 million) to build his factory, Benamar has waited in vain for the hard currency he needs to import equipment. "They tell me it is still in committee, always in committee," he said.

Private factory owners want their own hard currency allocations, direct access to foreign and domestic suppliers and the go-ahead to pursue their own investments.

Bensoudou said that under the current system the private sector, which represents 40 per

cent of non-hydrocarbons gross domestic product, was not getting its fair share of scarce hard currency. He favoured rescheduling the country's \$24 billion foreign debt to make more dollars available for imports.

The government has consistently rejected debt scheduling on the grounds that it would weaken Algeria's standing in world financial markets.

State firms have reacted angrily, calling the private entrepreneurs sharks bent on devouring the public sector and its ideals of social justice.

Enaditex employees said they were determined to defend their firm against "manoeuvres that aim to destabilise that national economy and place its levers in the hands of special interests."

Bureaucrats said they resented being made scapegoats for the country's economic crisis and complained of their own bad pay and working conditions.

Officials from Chadli downwards say the reforms are designed to strengthen — not weaken — the public sector but admit that decades-old attitudes are hard to change.

Bensoudou Concurs: "You can't wipe out 25 years of attitudes by laws. That is our struggle," he said.

Business and the economy sluggish

Dollar gets a boost

NEW YORK, March 4, (UPI): Theories that globalisation of financial markets has put Wall Street in the thrall of other world bourses were dealt a setback as a rally on the New York Stock Exchange closed out a week begun with the chatter of falling prices on the Tokyo exchange.

The dollar also received a boost because of tottering Japanese financial markets and yen weakness blamed on Bank of Japan hesitation over its long-awaited discount rate hike. The rush of the two Germanys towards monetary and political unification, seen as risky for the mark, helped too.

The Tokyo exchange's Nikkei Average plunged 1,569 points Monday, dropping 762 more points Thursday. But the Dow Jones average blithely went its own way to post steady gains. Analysts said investors realised Japan's markets were in a local shakeout. Good US economic news helped too.

The US economy perked up a bit, suggesting Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan may have achieved his "soft landing." Revised 1989 fourth-quarter gross national product figures showed the period wasn't as bad as everyone thought. Durable goods orders plunged in January — but purchasing managers said orders rose in February for the first time since June, a sign recovery could be in progress.

Americans' personal income increased 0.8 per cent in January on the back of a federal pay raise and larger social security cheques, and the government said consumer spending nearly kept pace at 0.6 per cent. Retail stores said February results were up 5.6 per cent — better than expected.

Still, there were reminders that business and the economy are sluggish.

American Express Co. said it will pour \$750 million into its Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. investment subsidiary to improve its balance sheet and assure clients the troubled Wall Street firm won't go the way of Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc., now in bankruptcy court.

American Express had intended to reduce its 61-per cent stake in Shearson, but the capitalisation will boost it.

Despite the infusion, Shearson said it planned to lay off 2,000 of its 35,000 employees in the latest addition to securities industry unemployment. The investment firm said it now intends to focus on core businesses and expects to take a heavy charge against quarterly earnings.

A federal grand jury in Anchorage, Alaska, indicted oil giant Exxon on felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from the massive oil spill from one of its tankers off the state's coast March 24, 1989. The five criminal counts, which could result in fines of \$600 million were handed down after plea bargaining negotiations broke down, US officials said.

Northrop Corp. pleaded guilty to 34 counts of making false statements to the Pentagon about participating in the navy's Harrier jet and an air force Cruise missile. The defence manufacturer will pay \$17 million in fines, but charges were dismissed against company executives.

Bank of New England Corp., in rocky financial condition, agreed to conditions set in a cease-and-desist order issued by the comptroller of the currency, a treasury branch, that commit it to restoring its capital foundation and forbid it from making dividend payments on preferred stock.

The Boston-based Superregional, saddled with a disastrous real estate lending portfolio, must attain a 3 per cent ratio of equity to assets by May 31. The bank said it probably wouldn't make the deadline, but the regulatory agency can grant an extension if it chooses to do so.

Also in New England, the long-embattled Seabrook, N.H., nuclear power station got a full-power operation licence from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission four years after it was completed.

Move to cut spending

King Hassan unveils austerity

AGADIR, Morocco, March 4, (AP): King Hassan II, marking his 29th anniversary on the Moroccan throne, said today his government would have to take austerity measures.

He did not provide details, but Morocco is widely expected to cancel most of its ambitious current development programme, including announced plans to construct a fixed link — by bridge or tunnel — across the Straits of Gibraltar.

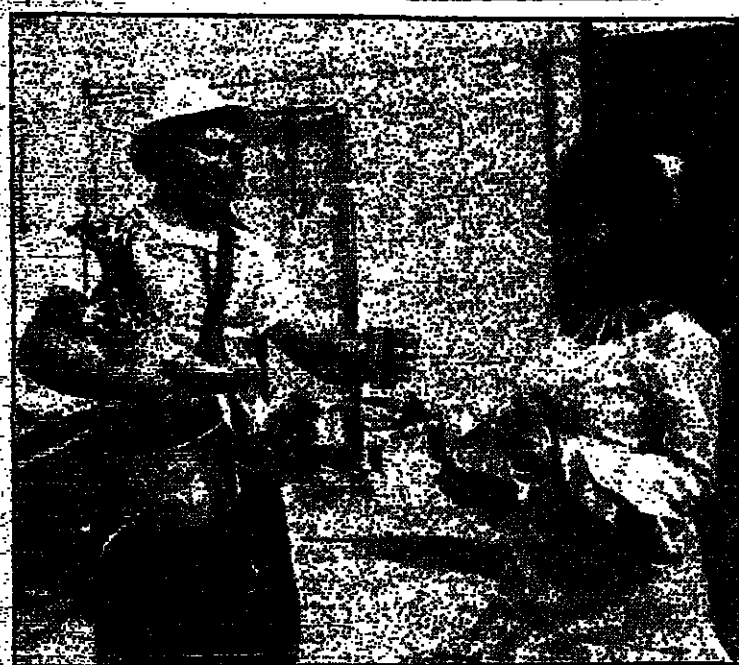
Hassan said simply the country would pursue "a wise and balanced austerity policy, seeking to reduce to the maximum all expenses which are not absolutely necessary."

In his annual review of government policies, he stressed that cuts in government expenditure would not constitute "an obstacle to our economic and social progress," but added: "Outside elements totally independent of our will risk creating difficulties for us and may slow down the progress noted in recent years."

These elements — including the drop in the world price of Morocco's major export product, phosphates, and the increased price of energy — "made all the predictions on which we based our economic strategy totally erroneous," he said.

"For this reason, we will realise only what is indispensable and productive, leaving what we wish to achieve to better days. But we will neglect nothing to surmount and bypass the obstacles which are arising on our path to progress."

The last two years were beneficial, he said, particularly in putting an end to several years of catastrophic drought, but now a "special effort is required of every Moroccan to allow the country to continue to progress."



ASK celebrates silver anniversary

The American School of Kuwait (ASK) recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

The celebration from 8 am to 3 pm, included folkloric displays representing about 22 different nationalities of enrolled students. It

was supervised by the school's Students Affairs Committee chaired by the outstanding student Rana Al Sadeq.

The classrooms were transformed into pavilions that depicted the countries of students. These pavilions contained several

exhibits including food and traditional handicrafts, which reflected traditional lifestyles of countries around the world.

Folkloric dances were also performed by many countries including Egypt, Palestine, America, Scandinavia, Lebanon and Kuwait.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 13)
11.45 From My Kitchen: Local Programme
12.05 Al Malqouf: Local Weekly Serial (part 8), starring Abdul Husain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khraibit
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closures

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.15 Mama Anisa and Children: Local Children Programme, prepared by Samiya Mohammed and Presented by Mama Anisa
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Holy Qurn and Science: Religious Programme, Prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
7.45 Diwanat Shura Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local Weekly Programme, Prepared and Presented by Mohammed Al Barjes

KTV 2

10.15 Ila Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (part 8)
11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme, prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khallaq, with guest star Sbah Al Jazari
12.15 News Summary
12.20 The World Today via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran and Closures

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Winnie The Pooh. A cartoon series for Children.
6.30 Wild South. "Mangroves." A look at underwater. Mangrove trees, their environment and forms of animal life that they feed.
7.00 Roving Report.
7.30 Trap
8.00 News in English
8.30 Around The World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world...
9.00 Tour of Duty. "Lonesome Cowboy Blues" Zeke, Goldman and Bravo Company run into a ten-year-old kid who saves them from a VC ambush. Later, the child is suspected of being a VC spy. Zeke defends him from the charges. Taylor and Percell try to get a friend a job as a chef for the officers...
10.00 Homeroom
10.30 A Classical Film. "The Big Sleep" Starring Humphrey Bogart, Laure Bacall. Private eye Marlowe is fired to protect General Strenwood's wild young daughter from her own indiscretions...
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery. **INDIAN** artist, Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce Showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia. Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya. Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. THE world renowned 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Agnieszka Duczmal will be performing at the Kuwait International on 4th and 5th March. The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and has toured over 18 European countries as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 5630000 ext 4010.

Stitch 'n' Pieces. An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

The British Council. Study in Scotland Education Exhibition: The SAS Kuwait Hotel, Ballroom, 3-5 March, 8.00-8.00 pm daily. Come and meet professors and other senior staff from Scottish Universities and find out about courses and entry requirements. British Council staff will be there to welcome you and answer your questions about studying in the UK. For more information telephone: 252 0067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Liz Lockey.

Shakespeare's Macbeth. The London Shakespeare Group who have played in more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Now at Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club. LIFE Saving Courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise/aerobics/staying power/yoga and ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

APPROB essay competition. ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel: APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Announcement of Mushaira. PAKISTAN Arts Circle is organising: A Mushaira (recitation of poems) of selected poets of Kuwait on Thursday, March 8, at Rumaithiya, at the residence of Masood Rasheed Lone at 9 pm sharp. Invitation cards are available with the secretary of Pakistan Arts Circle, Hamid Mahmood, Tel: 4716258. A renowned poet from Delhi is expected and will preside over the Mushaira. Families already registered are kindly requested to collect their cards. New families are also welcome.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It commenced on Feb 11 and will be given upto March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

British Council. MARCH 10-22 at the gallery: An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display, may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Programme of events: Saturday, March 10, 6.00 pm — opening programme with a lecture by Ms Julia Eccleshare, one of UK's top authority on children's literature; announcement of winners for the Bookworm Contest for children aged 7-15 and formal opening of the exhibition. Wednesday, March 14, 6.00 pm — Film Showing: The Worst Witch — film fantasy adapted from the children's book. "The Worst Witch" by Jill Murphy. It is the magical tale of a school for witches where things have a habit of going slightly awry. 70 min.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am — Story telling by professional story teller. Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm — film showing Asterix in Britain, The Movie. Go back, far back in time to 50 BC when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4.00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. 75 min.

Thursday, March 22, 10.30 am — story telling by a professional story teller. Note: For all these events during the Children's Books Exhibition admission is free but please book in advance. The opening programme, however, is by invitation only. The exhibition is open to the public during regular library hours.

Ladies International League of Kuwait. JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3.30, programme at 4.30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge. **Daniella Desert Rally.** The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688-92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Prize distribution

THE annual prize distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will be held on March 9, (Friday) at 6.30 pm at the Ibn Taimiah Secondary School, Hasawi. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

SPORTS

Strongman Competition. YOU are invited to come and see some of the strongest men in Kuwait compete for the title "Kuwait's Strongest Man 1990" or try your luck at one of the events: Engine lift, Weight toss, Trailer load, Truck pull, Endurance or Beach press. Gates open at 9.00 am, prizes on entry tickets, garden fete, stalls, live bands, barbecue and entertainment. For details contact Messilah Beach Hotel on 5624111 ext 739/751.

IAC One-Ac Play competition

THE IAC has decided to extend the closing date for the II One-Ac Play competition, to be held during May, to March 9. All Indian associations wishing to take part are asked to fill out the appropriate registration form obtainable from the IAC office (3904817) or any one of the organising committee members.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel: 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Jazzercise

Connie will be resuming classes at Messilah Beach Hotel from 03/03/90. Classes are on Saturday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm & Wednesday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Be there.

Kuwait International Hotel. FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

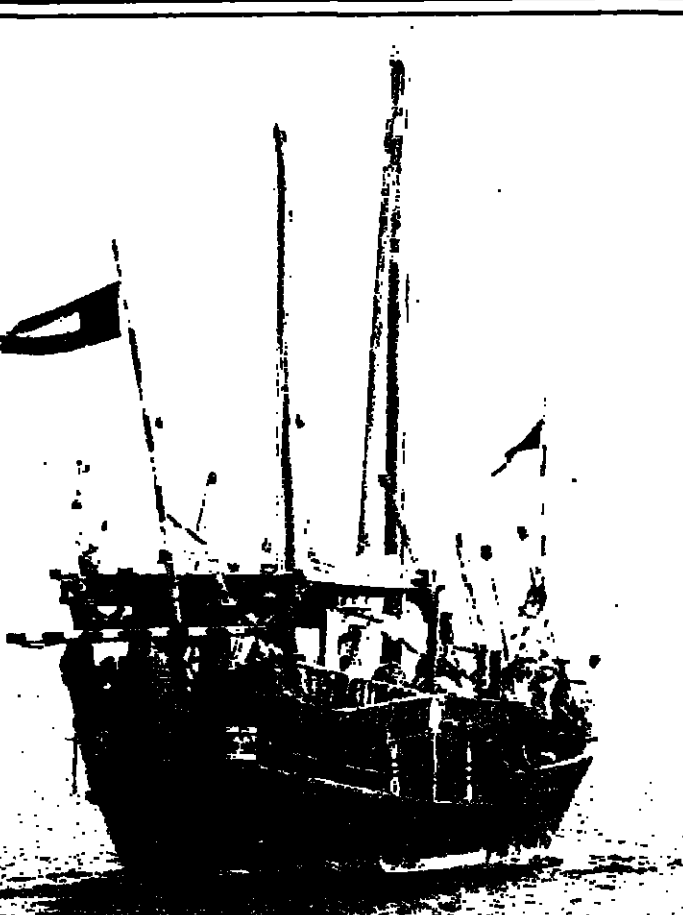
Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

LIFE SAVING COURSES:

With Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise / Aerobics / Staying power / Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Khayam Pharmacy
Beirut Street
Salimiyah and Rumeithiya
Al Nhadha Pharmacy
Baghdad Street
Fahad Al Ahmad
Abu Hulaifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road
Jeleeb Al Shuyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Zahara Pharmacy
New Souk



Al Ghazeer sails again

Al Ghazeer has taken to the waters again. The SAS Kuwait Hotel has re-opened sailings on this beautiful hand-crafted dhow after a break for the cold season. In addition to the very popular half day, full day and weekend rentals, Al Ghazeer now offers a romantic sunset cruise. Climb aboard Al Ghazeer for a lazy tour of the beautiful coastline in pure luxury. The new year brings an exciting menu and excellent rates. There is no minimum requirement of passengers so a cruise for 2 or 40 can easily be arranged. Details on Al Ghazeer sailings are available at the SAS Kuwait Hotel Front Office.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Salimiyah
Batman
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous
Maa Beti
Fahad Al Open
Agnee Path
Al Jahra
Like Father Like Son

Granada
Ninja Hunt
Salafikhath
Dragon Force
Jeeb
Joga Jog
Ahmadi Drive-in
Born to Kill

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.51 am
Zohr	12.00 noon
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	5.50
Isha	7.06



Indian School's Annual Day

Mrs. Bhudiraja gives away the performance prize to Maya Soma Kumar of the Indian School on the

occasion of the school's Annual Day celebrated recently.

Kodak photography expert due in Kuwait

"PICTURES can be fun and easy", and Edwin Austin, the Seminar Coordinator for Eastman Kodak, New York is soon going to demonstrate this when he arrives in Kuwait to conduct the Kodak Photographic Seminar. A fast paced, fun filled, three-hour programme designed to help photographers understand and take better pictures with their 35mm cameras. Aided by hundreds of professional, high quality slides, Austin, an accomplished photographer and experienced photo instructor will take his audience through a fascinating presentation, involving details on every step of photography. After 3 hours most people should know a whole lot more on technicals like focussing, composition, lighting, close-ups, using the correct lenses and filters, getting the right exposure and of course choosing the right film to get the best pictures. Austin, whose work involves marketing and scheduling Photo Seminars throughout the US has travelled extensively. His various assignments have taken him to over 50 US states and to a number of foreign countries. His first visit to the Middle East also promises to be a busy one, with more lectures in Oman, Bahrain, Cyprus and also the UAE.

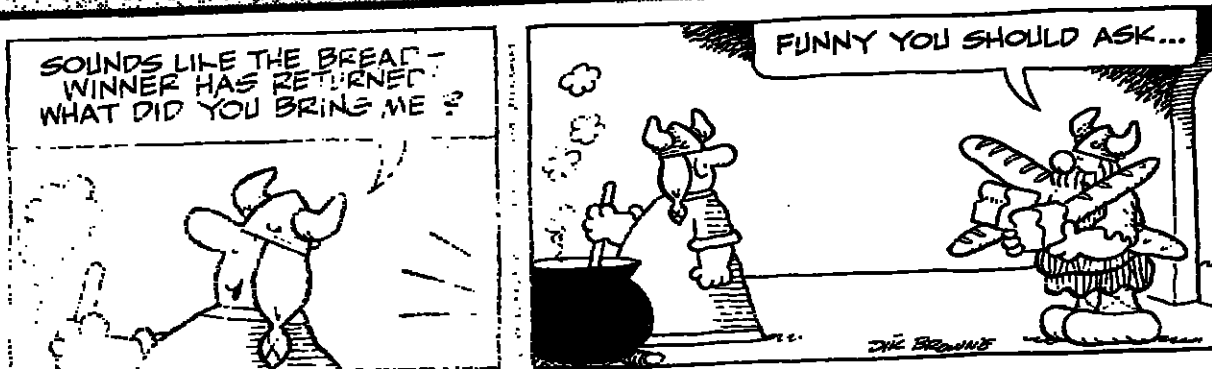


LEISURE

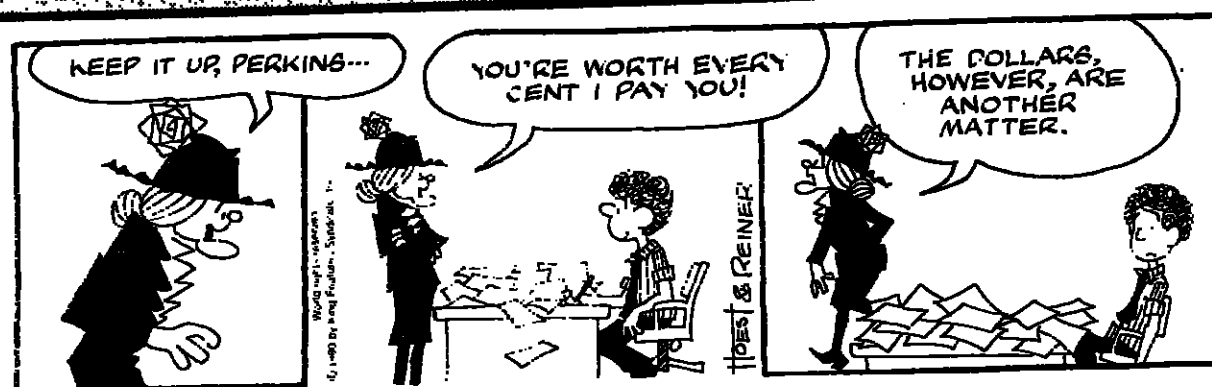
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By D. Browne



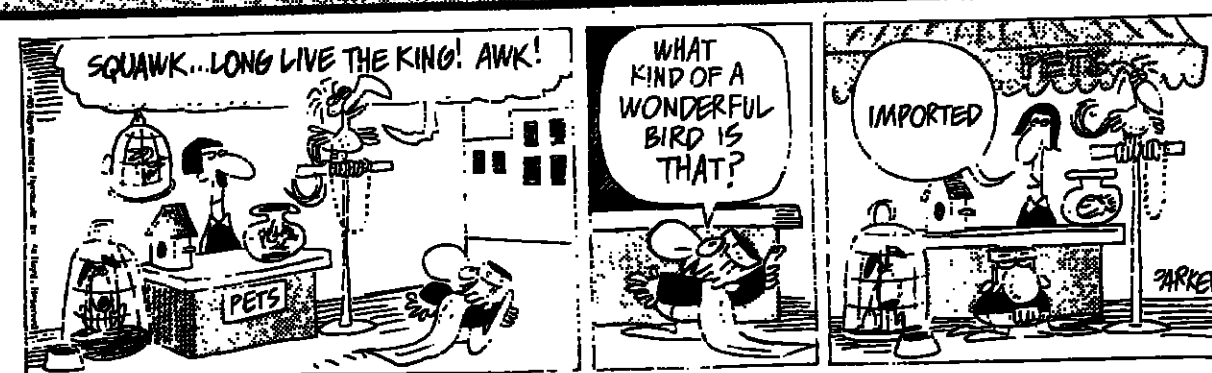
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Matt Walker



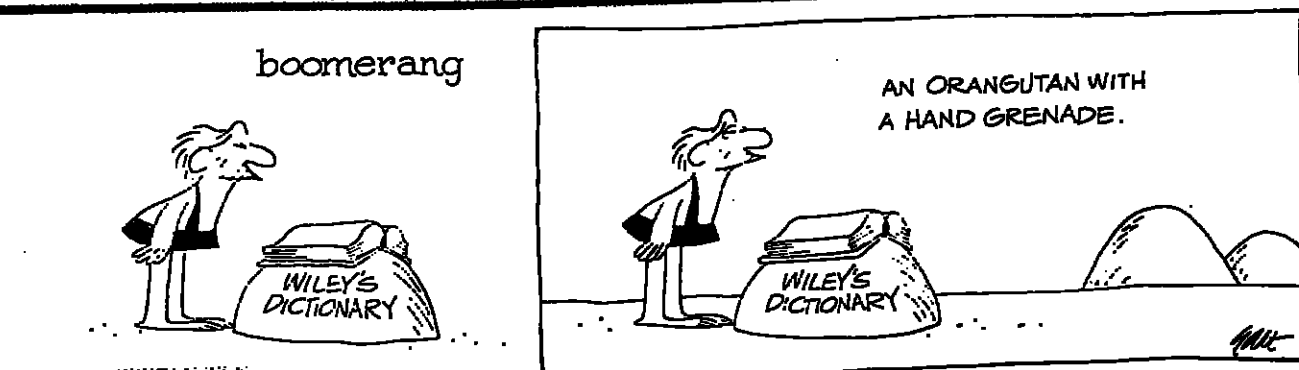
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



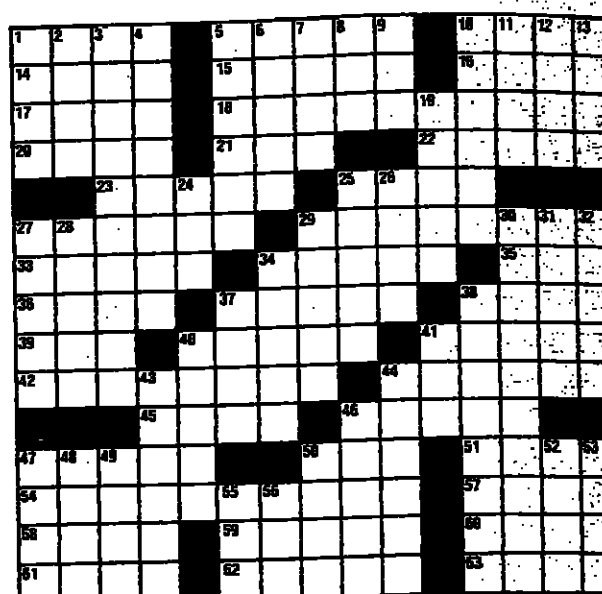
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fenton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Like some

5 Wonderland

10 Hazard

14 Bassoon's

15 Teasdale and

16 Singer Adams

17 Triumphs

18 Literary work

20 "— Diamond"

21 Fish-eating bird

22 Mah-jongg

23 Strengthening

25 Chastity's

27 Cathedral

29 Snow remover

33 Part of a long

34 Tenant's

35 — liner (gag)

36 Gambler's

37 Seckels

38 Feed the kitty

40 Sugar sources

41 Coaxes

42 Hawks

44 Whole

45 Distrustful

46 Deux follower

47 Reference book

50 Expert athlete

51 Edible mollusk

54 Scottish tea

57 Singer's

58 Word with back

59 Lofy abode

60 Results

DOWN

1 Orange or Rose

2 Irish Rose's

3 Overly

4 Sweet

5 Valuable

6 Actor Bert's

7 Golf club

8 Hardtop or

9 Atlanta time

10 Call it a day

11 Superstar

12 Your majesty!

13 Openers

19 Actor Martin

24 Pride fellow

25 Singes

26 "Bonanza"

27 Ice cream

28 Army chaplain

29 Pews

30 Area east of

31 Come in

32 One of the

34 See 45 Across

37 Noblemen

38 Magazine

40 Explosion

41 Due precursor

43 Dopey, Doc,

44 Worn away

46 Orient Express

47 Wimbledon

48 "— she blows!"

49 "Damn

50 Yankees' role

52 Actor Alan

53 Cover up

55 Part of ABA

56 Early auto

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

REFS DEFIS DEMO
ELAN EARLY OVAL
DINING ROOMS SUITE
SAUTERNE TALES
DES NARY
PASSE AARE AFB
SILK ANDES NEE
CALIFORNIA SUITE
ANI ABLER STEP
TON ROES AHEAD
AMES EVE
AMUSE OVERCOAT
NUTCRACKERS SUITE
OLEO RAINS SSIS
NEST ARETE PEAT

LOOK FOR THE SILVER LINING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ A K J 3
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A 7 4

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ Q 10 3

EAST
♠ 8 7 4
♥ Q 8 4 2
♦ 5
♣ J 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9 6
♥ 6
♦ A K 9 6 3
♣ K 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

4 ♦ Pass 5 NT Pass

7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

It is a lazy habit to settle for the first plan of attack you uncover. Once you have good idea of how you want to proceed, look around to see if the overall campaign can be strengthened.

North's jump to three no-trump described a hand of 16-18 points and a 4-3-3-3 pattern. When South showed an unbalanced hand, North jumped to five no trump to indicate an absolute maximum, with too many aces to initiate a cue-bidding

sequence. With at least a king more than a minimum opening bid South elected to contract for all the tricks.

West led a trump and declarer saw no problem with the hands. Trumps were drawn in three rounds and South was all but ready to claim the rest of the tricks when East showed out on the second diamond. With two diamonds to get rid of declarer was forced to take the heart finesse. Unfortunately, that was not to be—down one.

The combined 3-2 diamond split and heart finesse offered about a 90 percent chance of success. But there was yet another possibility suggested by the high trumps on the table—a dummy reversal.

After winning the opening lead in hand, declarer should cash the ace-king of hearts, discarding a diamond from hand and then ruff a heart high. If the queen of hearts comes down, declarer can draw trumps and claim. When the lady doesn't appear, declarer returns to the board with a trump to the ten and when both defenders follow he can virtually claim. Declarer ruffs the last heart, cashes the ace and king of clubs and ruffs a club. A diamond to the queen provides the entry to draw the last trump and the ace and king of diamonds take the last two tricks.



YOUR STARS



Nothing is quite as it seems to be so do exercise a bit more caution. If you think you have more to learn you really are getting old! There is no time to do all you would wish so concentrate on essentials. Be objective.



If you think there is a plot against you you are wrong — it just seems that way. Go on doing your best and all will turn out well. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Try to use just a little more common sense, too. Be cordial.



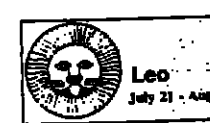
You should do your level best not to be late for an appointment. Avoid trying to do too many things all at the same time. Do not let others dictate to you, nor should you dictate to them. Be moderate.



You will be blamed for something you have not done, but you will be able to prove your innocence. You should show a little more goodwill towards others. Do not think you are the only one whose opinion matters. Be frugal.



Not everything will be quite as you would like it to be. You should try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Do not attempt to do your own repairs unless you really know what you are about. Be less slapdash.



Do not always think how unfortunate you are. On the contrary, you should think all of the bad things that could have but have not happened to you. Do not do anything that would injure your health. Be attentive.



Make sure do not miss an appointment you have made. It is today. Take as much care of others as you can on what you are doing. And do not do anything that would require better eyesight than you have. Take good care of your finances. Be reliable.



You will tend to be rather clumsy and should concentrate as hard as you can on what you are doing. And do not do anything that would require better eyesight than you have. Take good care of your finances. Be reliable.



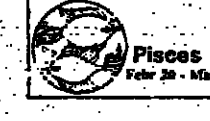
Everything seems to be taking just that much longer, so make sure you do not waste time. Do not place too much reliance on others. And do not trust luck either. Be less frivolous.



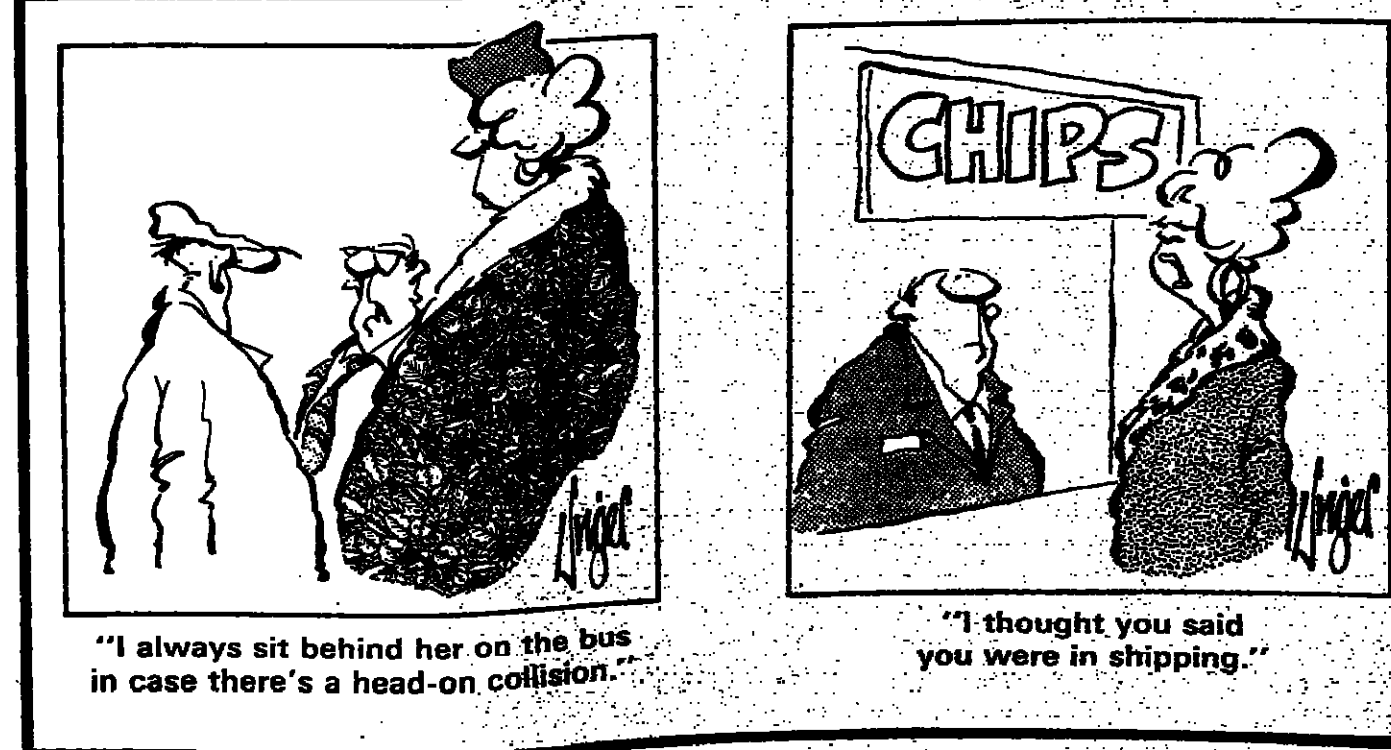
You will not be able to get to the bottom of something that appears to be going wrong. However you will be able to do something to prevent the worst consequences. Do not take any needless risks. Be careful.




You will be more liable to act on the spur of the moment, try not to. Do not ask for more than you know you deserve. Watch out for mistakes and so try to correct them as they arise. Be rational.



Something you thought had been taken care of will still turn out to be a problem. Try not to lose sight of the wood for the trees. Do not eat any too exotic foods just now. Be fair.



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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

SPORTS

Honeyghan demolished in three rounds

Breland retains title

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): American Mark Breland retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight crown last night when he stopped a shattered and pitiful Lloyd Honeyghan in the third of 12 scheduled rounds.

Breland, making his fourth title defence, demolished the British former champion in a completely one-sided fight in which Honeyghan was floored six times and took five compulsory eight-counts.

Honeyghan, with his nickname "Ragamuffin," emboldened on his shorts, looked just as scrappy as the name suggested and offered none of his much-vaunted aggression against a smiling opponent.

After two minutes and 15 seconds of the third round, with the crowd screaming for Panamanian referee Julio Alvarado to stop the fight, the contest was declared over.

Honeyghan, seeking to become the first Briton to win three world titles, suffered a cut under his left eye early in the first round after falling for a count of four with the fight barely underway.

He was then given two compulsory counts of eight in the second round and three eight-counts in the third.

"It was a bit easier than I expected," said the 26-year-old Breland, whose last seven fights

have all been over within five rounds.

Honeyghan, hit with a devastating left hook in the first round and later booted out the ring to cries of "what a load of rubbish," said nothing about his future after the fight.

"I'm going to analyse myself," he said. "I'm saying nothing today. I fought badly tonight."

"It must have been the first punch which caught me flush. I just wasn't warmed up properly. I can't explain it."

Honeyghan, 29, said he felt most sorry for his children, who were watching the fight.

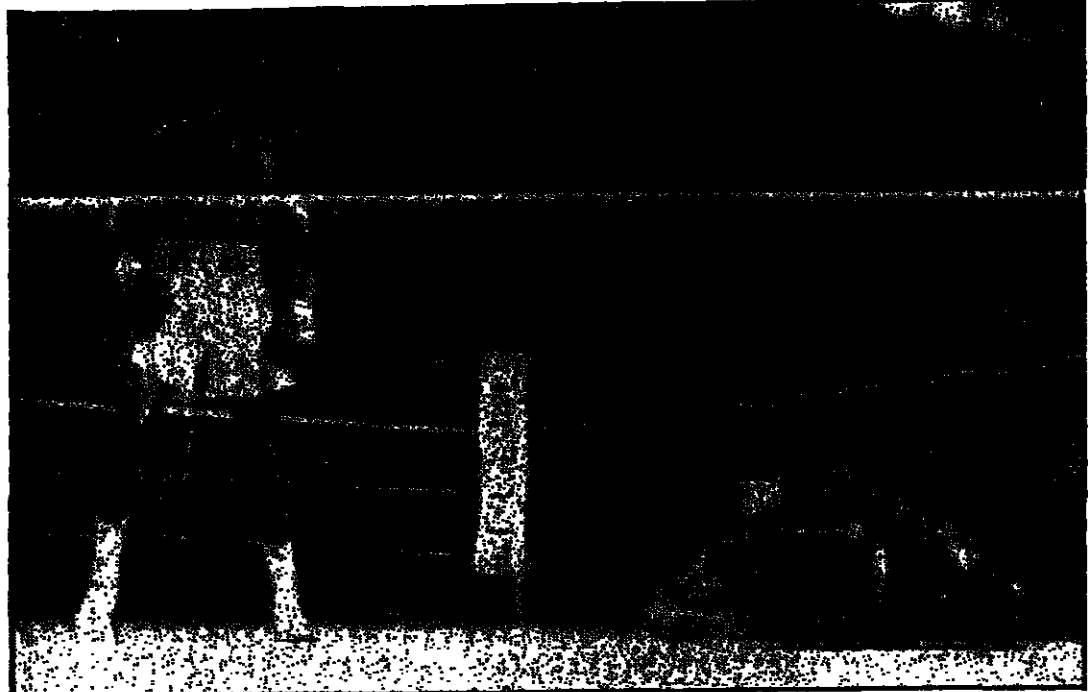
Honeyghan's manager Micky Duff said: "Maybe it's time for Lloyd to quit, but that's a decision that Lloyd must take for himself."

Breland, 15 centimeters taller than the Briton, used his superior reach to telling effect in a Wembley Arena that was only three-quarters full.

Jose Garra, Breland's assistant trainer, said: "We always believed Honeyghan was a one-shot fighter but tonight he did not even have one shot."

Honeyghan, who said before the fight he wanted to be known as the "The Banger," fizzled out in the face of Breland's relentless assault.

It was the Briton's third defeat in a career which took off gloriously in September 1986 when he stopped undisputed champion Don Curry of the US in six rounds in Atlantic City.



Breland stands over Honeyghan after knocking him down in the 3rd round. (Reuters wirephoto)

Johnston becomes champion

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, March 4. (AP): Uncle knew best, and because 17-year-old Steve Johnston listened, he became a US amateur boxing champion last night.

Johnston, a high school sophomore from Denver, got the worst of it in the first round of the 139-pound (63-kilo) final against hard-hitting Terom Millet of St. Louis at the Broadmoor World Arena.

"I was scared of him," said Johnston, who appeared tentative in the first round. "He was knocking out people."

Millet had stopped two of his three previous opponents in the tournament, including Tonga McClain, a bronze medalist at the 1989 World Championships in Moscow.

At the end of the first round, Johnston's uncle, Richard, who trains him, told him, "start boxing and working off a stiff jab."

Johnston did what he was told, picked apart the 21-year-old Millet's defense, made him take a standing eight-count and won a 4-1 decision.

Defending champion Jeremy Williams, a 17-year-old high school senior from Fort Dodge, Iowa, and 28-year-old Javier Alvarez of San Antonio, Texas, also won.

Williams got a second straight 178-pound (80-kilo) title when Terry McGroom of Chicago couldn't box because of a sprained right hand.

Alvarez, who weighed 188 1-2 pounds (85 kilos), 12 1-2 pounds (5 1-2 kilos) under the heavyweight limit, built up a lead over two rounds and held on for a 4-1 decision over James Johnson of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The super heavyweight championship went to 18-year-old Edward Escobedo of McKinney, Texas. Escobedo knocked down Gregory Richardson, 212 pounds (96 kilos), of the Navy at Norfolk with a crashing right to the head. Navy coach Dick Pettigrew stopped the bout at 2:19 of the third round.

Rudolph Bradley of the Army at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, won the 112-pound (50-kilo) title on a 5-0 decision over Ronald Dunlap. It was the seventh straight year the Army team has won at least championship.

Calgary swim to world best

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, March 4. (Reuters): Canadian Mark Tewksbury took part in his third world-best swimming performance in three days as his University of Calgary team set a new short-course standard in the 400-metre medley relay at the Canadian National Championships yesterday.

The team of Tewksbury, Jon Cleveland, Tom Ponting and Steven Vander Meulen combined for a time of three minutes 36.66 seconds in the 25-metre pool. The old best was 3:37.36 set by the Stanford University team in 1987.

Ponting, who swam the butterfly leg, said he thinks the Calgary team can do even better.

Azinger, Couples share lead

Edge stays ahead in Kemper Open

MIAMI, March 4. (Reuters): Paul Azinger bogeyed the final hole to drop back into a tie with Fred Couples after three rounds of the \$1.4 million Doral Open golf tournament yesterday.

Azinger and Couples were tied at 10-under-par when the round started under very cloudy skies and they both finished with rounds of two-under-par 70 for 204 totals going into today's final round at the Doral Country Club.

Mike Reid fired a six-under-par 66 to move into third place at 11-under-par 205. Tim Simpson, who also shot a 66, Bob Tway and Tom Purtzer were tied at 207.

British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia struggled to a 73 and dropped back into seventh place at 208.

On the final hole, Azinger pulled an 8 iron onto the bank of the water hazard. He pitched onto the green and two-putted for his bogey.

Azinger, winner of the season-opening tournament of champions, started fast again yesterday posting an eagle three on the first hole for the second straight day by holing a 20-foot putt after reaching the green with a two iron.

He then birdied the second. After a birdie at the fifth, however, he said his game left him, and he started pulling the ball.

■ And in Maui, Hawaii, — Mitzi Edge held onto her lead despite a



Azinger: finished with a 204 total

third round score of two-over-par 73 yesterday and took a one-shot lead over Rosie Jones and Briton Laura Davies into today's final round of the \$500,000 Women's Kemper Open.

Edge, who has been in the lead from the start, completed 54 holes over the walled resort with a total of 212, one under par.

Jones shot a 69, and Davies posted a 72 for their 213 totals. Beth Daniel fired a 66 to move up to 214, one stroke ahead of Cathy Gerring.

Edge began the day with a two-shot lead and built it up to four strokes before struggling through the back nine with four bogeys.

Arsenal turn from champions to losers



Crystal Palace's Mark Bright (left) is beaten to the ball by Tottenham's Gary Mabbutt. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): Arsenal's ninth defeat of the season has left manager George Graham pondering how a championship-winning team can turn into losers in the space of a few months.

"I know the talent is there because good players don't just suddenly become bad players," said Graham, whose attacking in-play includes three men for England.

But it may be too late for Graham to find a solution. As statisticians were quick to point out after Arsenal's defeat at Queen's Park Rangers yesterday, history is against them.

Reduced

The last team to lose more than eight matches and still win the championship was Derby County in 1975.

Derby lost 10 matches but in those days First Division clubs played 42 fixtures. Now the calendar has been reduced to 38 games.

At this stage last year Arsenal, who snatched the title from Liverpool's grasp in the final match of the season, had amassed 54 points from 26 games.

Now, they have 43 points from the same number of matches and though they are in fourth place they are 10 points behind leaders Liverpool.

But Graham refused to panic. "I know that several players have been below par this season



Knut Reinhardt (right) from Leverkusen tries to stop Cologne's Thomas Haessler in the W. German First Division soccer match. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sanchez takes Real to victory

SEVILLE, Spain, March 4. (Reuters): Two goals in the last five minutes gave Real Madrid a 2-1 away win over Sevilla yesterday and stretched their runaway lead in the Spanish soccer First Division to 10 points.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez clinched Real's victory with his 29th goal of the season two minutes from the final whistle after Emilio Butragueno had given the Madrid side a lifeline.

Five minutes from the end Paco Llorente scooped the ball back from the byline for Butragueno to put Real on equal terms after it had looked as if a 36th-minute strike by Uruguayan midfielder Pablo Bengoechea might be enough for a Sevilla win.

Three minutes later a foul against Rafael Martin Vazquez gave Real a free-kick 30 metres from goal. Sanchez looped his kick over the Sevilla defensive wall and it bounced in off a post.

Real, heading for their fifth consecutive league title, have scored 81 goals this season and, with 10 games to come, look like beating the record of 96 established by arch-rivals Barcelona.

Real started strongly. Manolo Sanchis dribbled through the Sevilla defence and beat Soviet World Cup keeper Rinat Dassayev, only for his shot to bounce harmlessly off a post.

But Sevilla, tough and determined, took the lead when Bengoechea pierced the Real defence 10 minutes from halftime.

Sevilla thwarted the second-half attacks of a Real side, which was without suspended West German midfielder Bernd Schuster, and looked like ending the Madrid club's run of 17 matches without defeat.

But Butragueno and Sanchez turned the tables and a save by goalkeeper Paco Buyo 30 seconds from the end, which denied Austrian striker Anton Polster, clinched it for Real.

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Bordeaux crash to heaviest defeat

PARIS, March 4. (Reuters): French Soccer League leaders Bordeaux crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season when they were beaten 3-0 by struggling Cannes yesterday.

Two goals in the first half hour from Franck Durix and Yannick Stopyra and a third one minute from time by Bruno Bellone handed Bordeaux their second successive away loss.

Rivals Marseille, who had their match in St Etienne postponed to allow them to prepare for their European Cup quarter-final with CFKA Sofia next Wednesday, remain four points behind but now have two games in hand.

The morale-boosting win for the Mediterranean team over the League leaders came at the end of a strange week of controversy involving international midfielder Luis Fernandez.

Fernandez was "irreversibly" barred from the Cannes team a week ago by trainer Jean Fernandez, who is no relation, after a bizarre argument about a cup of coffee.

Club directors and even the town mayor publicly supported the coach, who ordered the player to train with the third team for the rest of the season and said he would not have him in his side even after a public apology.

But Fernandez appeared in the team as a sweeper, set up the second goal brilliantly for Stopyra and was warmly embraced by the other Fernandez as he left the pitch.

Bordeaux, who have looked ill at ease since the end of the mid-winter break, were clearly baffled by it all as well.

Sochaux fell from third to fourth with a surprise 3-1 home defeat to Nantes for whom recalled Belgian midfielder Franck Vercauteren scored twice, once from the penalty spot.

Monaco, who beat Paris St Germain 2-0 on Friday, climbed above them. Once again they had Argentine striker Ramon Diaz to thank as he netted his 11th goal of the season.

Results

Best 2: Mulhouse 0

Cen 1: Metz 0

Canes 3: Bordeaux 0

Lille 0: Lyon 0

Montpellier 1: Nantes 0

Sochaux 1: Auxerre 0

Results

Best 2: Mulhouse 0

Cen 1: Metz 0

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Lille 0: Lyon 0

Montpellier 1: Nantes 0

Sochaux 1: Auxerre 0

Results

Best 2: Mulhouse 0

Cen 1: Metz 0



Klaus Augenthaler

Played on Friday

Postponed: St Etienne v Marseille

Bayern Munich beat Waldhof Mannheim 2-0 at home to go one point clear at the top of the West German Soccer League yesterday.

Veteran libero Klaus Augenthaler scored after six minutes and half an hour later Thomas Strunz sealed victory with a long shot off a perfect pass from Scott Alan McNally.

The champions were in control for most of the game, Waldhof managing just one near miss in the 16th minute.

Bayern have 32 points from 23 matches with Eintracht Frankfurt on 31 after dropping a point in a 1-1 draw at Bayer Uerdingen.

Cologne are a point further back after a 2-0 win over rhineland neighbours Bayer Leverkusen — Bayer's first home defeat of the season in front of a 27,000 crowd.

Hamburg's 3-1 win at lowly Kaiserslautern and Dortmund's 3-0 victory over Borussia Moenchengladbach provided half of the 14 goals scored in seven games.

Results

Best 2: Mulhouse 0

Cen 1: Metz 0

Canes 3: Bordeaux 0

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Montpellier 1: Nantes 0

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Results

Best 2: Mulhouse 0

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Canes 3: Bordeaux 0

Lille 0: Lyon 0

Bowie and Short help Nets cruise past Hawks

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, March 4. (AP): Sam Bowie had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Purvis Short scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter last night as the New Jersey Nets snapped a four-game losing streak and halted Atlanta Hawks' winstreak at five with a 114-109 victory.

Short snapped a 104-104 tie and gave the Nets the lead for good in a seesaw fourth quarter when he hit a pair of four shots with 1:41 remaining.

The Nets stayed in front by hitting eight more free throws down the stretch, including four by Jack Haley in the last 15 seconds.

Kings 102, Hornets 103

Antoine Carr's two free throws with 23.5 seconds left capped a game-ending 6-0 scoring run that gave Sacramento a road victory over Charlotte.

The Hornets led 103-98 with 1:25 to play when Randolph Keys hit one of two free throws. But Wayman Tisdale hit a pair of turnaround jumpers to pull the Kings within one before Carr hit the decisive free throw.

After two timeouts, the Hornets got the ball to Rex Chapman in the corner, but he missed a jumper with three seconds left.

Tisdale, who scored 25 points, got the rebound and the clock ran out. Carr had 23 points for the Kings, who won their second straight game on the road but are only 5-23 away from home this season.

Clippers 107, Pacers 106

Tom Garrick scored the winning basket with 3.2 seconds remaining and Charles Smith had a career-high 40 points for Los Angeles at Indiana.

The Pacers, who trailed by 11 points in the third quarter, led 105-103 on a 19-footer with 45 seconds remaining by Reggie Miller, who scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half to spark Indiana's comeback.

Results

Sacramento 104: Charlotte 103

L.A. Clippers 107: Indiana 106

Washington 114: Atlanta 109

Houston 129: Golden State 109

New York 106: Milwaukee 105

Denver 106: Dallas 104

Utah 112: San Antonio 98

Portland 110: Seattle 98

Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

New York 37 20 569

Philadelphia 34 22 621

Boston 34 22 607

Washington 23 36 390

New Jersey 14 43 346

Miami 12 47 203

Central Division

Detroit 43 15 741

Chicago 36 20 643

Milwaukee 32 26 552

Indiana 30 28 517

Atlanta 28 30 483

Cleveland 25 31 446

Orlando 16 42 276

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Utah 41 16 719

San Antonio 38 19 667

Dallas 32 26 552

Denver 31 26 544

Houston 26 31 458

Minnesota 15 41 283

Charlotte 10 45 182

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers 42 13 764

Portland 39 18 684

Phoenix 36 19 655

Seattle 31 26 508

Golden State 25 32 439

L.A. Clippers 23 34 404

Sacramento 17 40 298

Funboard competitors

Competitors train on an artificial pool surrounded by 20 powerful fans inside the Bercy Stadium in Paris. The first funboard World Cup starts today and ends tomorrow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panfil wins marathon

TOKYO, March 4. (Reuters): Poland's Wanda Panfil won the Nagoya International Women's Marathon today after Commonwealth champion Lisa Martin of Australia was forced out of the race after only 40 kms.

Martin, the Seoul Olympic silver medallist, dropped out because of stomach pains.

Johnson stumbles in meet

FAIRFAX, Virginia, March 4. (UPI) — Defending champion Brandy Johnson, coming off a spate of physical problems, stumbled three times during her floor exercise, fell during her uneven bar routine and was eliminated from the McDonald's American Cup Gymnastics Meet yesterday.

The Soviet Union's Natalia Kalina, 16, finished first in the preliminary round, winning or sharing first place in three of the four events, with Americans Sandy Woolsey, 17, and Kim Zmeskal, 14, placing second and third, respectively. Johnson, 16, the US national champion, finished 22nd, with only the top eight finishers advancing to today's finals.

On the men's side, American Lance Ringwald was the top finisher in the preliminary round, with Cuba's Felix Aguilera second.

Johnson, lacking her usual enthusiasm, stood in fourth place before the floor exercise, her final event, appearing to be a canch to finish among the top eight.

But Johnson came down awkwardly on three landings and was given only an 8.175 in the event — the lowest score of any of the 24 competitors. After completing the floor exercise, she hunched over in frustration, consoled by her coach, Kevin Brown.

Johnson placed first overall in five of her seven competitions last year, but has been hampered by a series of physical problems of late. She competed with a broken ankle in the World Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany last October, then nursed a back injury and on Feb. 23, underwent minor reconstructive surgery on her knees and bladder.

"I'm glad the meet's over," Johnson said. "I wish I would have had more time to train, with all my illnesses and injuries."

Kalina tied with Zmeskal, the US junior national champion and a protégé of famed coach Bela Karolyi, for first place in the vault with a 9.9 and won the balance beam with a 9.862 and the floor exercise with a 9.950.

Rounding out the qualifiers for today's final round on the women's side were Japan's Mari Kojima, Romania's Li-Wenita Molosovici, Spain's Alicia Fernandez, Japan's Hanaka Miura, and Canada's Leah Homma. American Shannon Miller finished sixth in the standings, but did not advance because of a rule limiting each country to no more than two participants in the finals.

Richardson hits England for ton

W. Indies win off last ball

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 4. (Reuters) — Ian Bishop crashed the last ball of the innings high over extra cover for four to give West Indies a three-wicket victory over England in a dramatic climax to the third one-day cricket international at Sabina Park yesterday.

Bishop's telling blow took West Indies to 216 for seven after England scored 214 for eight, both sides batting their full 50 overs.

West Indies needed six runs from the final over with four wickets in hand, including that of Richie Richardson, who had just completed an exhilarating century.

Richardson, who finished with an unbeaten 108, took a single off the first ball bowled by paceman Angus Fraser but Ezra Moseley was caught at extra cover off the second.

Bishop failed to score off the third ball but squeezed two runs from the next. Having been beaten by the fifth ball, he slogged the last between two sweepers on the cover boundary and joyously ran off the field with arms raised as spectators invaded the playing area.

West Indies take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, the first two games having been washed out by rain.

England's batting was again lifted by Allan Lamb, the century-making hero of their win in the first Test here this week, who this time scored a fine 66 from 97 balls.

But he was upstaged by Richardson, who reached his third hundred in one-day inter-



Ian Bishop

nationals off only 123 balls, having hit 10 fours and three sixes, two in three deliveries from medium-fast bowler David Capel.

England's catching let them down, however, Richardson being dropped on 47, 67 and 100.

West Indies had made a bad start by losing both openers in the first eight overs.

Carlisle Best, shuffling across, had his leg stump removed by Gladstone Small, while Desmond Haynes was caught in the gully after Phil DeFreitas had got a delivery to lift.

Richardson and Carl Hooper added 51 for the third wicket but the stand took 22 overs, so accurately did the English seamers bowl.

Then Hooper, having made 20 off 57 balls, danced down the wicket to off-spinner Eddie Hemmings but was beaten in the flight and bowled.

Richardson then tilted the balance in a fourth-wicket partnership with his captain Viv Richards which added 84 in 14 overs.

But when Richards was caught at point for 25 trying to cut Hemmings and Keith Arthurton was caught behind next ball, England's hopes were rekindled.

Richardson, however, found a staunch ally in Jeff Dujon, who scored a brisk 27 in a stand of 46 in 10 overs. When Dujon was caught from a skied drive, 13 were wanted from eight balls, but West Indies got home in a gripping finale.

England had promised a much larger total after scoring 88 for two in the first 20 overs, but the introduction of spin from Richards and Hooper not only checked the scoring rate but also accounted for Robin Smith (43) and Alec Stewart in successive balls.

Capel stayed with Lamb to add 68 in 14 overs but his dismissal in the 44th over when he was undone by Bishop's extra bounce coincided with a disappointing

last few overs for England.

The touring team gathered only 34 off the final 10 overs with both Lamb and Gladstone Small losing their off-stump to Bishop in the last over.

The Trinidadian fast bowler, who bowled Gooch for two in his opening spell, ended with four for 28 in his 10 overs.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
G. Gooch b Bishop	2
W. Larkins b Walsh	33
R. Smith c Marshall b Hooper	43
A. Lamb b Bishop	66
A. Stewart c Dujon b Hooper	0
D. Capel c Dujon b Bishop	28
R. Russell b Marshall	2
P. DeFreitas not out	3
G. Small b Bishop	0
Extras (lb-3 lb-25 w-6 nb-3)	37
Total (eight wks — 50 overs)	214
Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-71 3-117 4-117 5-185 6-206 7-212 8-214	
Did not bat: E. Hemmings, A. Fraser	
Bowling: Marshall 10-1-39-1, Bishop 10-1-28-4, Walsh 6-0-38-1, Moseley 6-1-15-0, Richards 9-0-32-0, Hooper 9-0-34-2	
WEST INDIES	
D. Haynes c Smith b DeFreitas	8
C. Best b Small	4
R. Richardson not out	108
C. Hooper b Hemmings	20
K. Arthurton c Russell b Hemmings	25
V. Richards c Small b Hemmings	0
J. Dujon c Smith b Small	27
E. Moseley c Gooch b Fraser	0
I. Bishop not out	6
Extras (lb-12 lb-4 w-1 nb-1)	18
Total (seven wks — 50 overs)	216
Fall of wickets: 1-112 2-233 3-74 4-158 5-158 6-204 7-210	
Did not bat: M. Marshall, C. Walsh	
Bowling: Small 9-0-37-2, DeFreitas 10-2-29-1, Capel 9-1-47-0, Fraser 10-0-41-1, Hemmings 10-0-31-3, Gooch 2-0-15-0	
Result: West Indies won by three wickets.	



Australian captain Allan Border holds the ball after taking a spectacular catch to dismiss Andrew Jones. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aussies crush Kiwis

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 4. (Reuters) — Australia, boosted by a Dean Jones century and a five-wicket haul by Simon O'Donnell, gave New Zealand a 150-run thrashing today and their biggest defeat in a one-day match.

After hitting 244 for eight in their 50 overs, Australia bundled New Zealand out for 94 in just 25.2 overs in the third of a triangular series also involving India. It was New Zealand's third lowest one-day score, a big disappointment for a rowdy, near-capacity crowd of around 25,000.

Playing block-and-bash cricket, the host side sacrificed their last eight wickets for 15 runs in 10 overs.

Until the collapse, Andrew Jones, captain Martin Crowe and Ken Rutherford had kept ahead of Australia's formidable run rate.

Australia began shakily after winning the toss and electing to bat. They lost Geoff Marsh to Richard Hadlee in the first over and narrowly escaped further disaster when David Boon was dropped in the second.

Jones came in to stabilise the innings with a dashing 107, his fourth century in one-day internationals. His 145-run partnership with Boon (67) was marked by brilliant running between the wickets and earned him the Man of the Match award.

New Zealand began their chase briskly with Crowe, deputising for flu-stricken John Wright, and Andrew Jones in unaccustomed roles as openers. But Crowe fell with Mark Greatbatch in Carl Rackemann's fifth over.

Jones and Ian Rutherford briefly took a grip on the innings before O'Donnell sensationally turned the game.

He claimed Rutherford in his second over and went on to take two more wickets in his next two, ending with five for 13 from six overs.

Australia lead the series with two wins from two games. New Zealand have one win and India none. Each side plays the other twice in the tournament, which ends with next Sunday's final.

New Zealand and India meet in Wellington on Tuesday.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA	
D. Boon c Crowe b Larsen	67
G. Marsh c Smith b Hadlee	2
D. Jones b Hadlee	107
S. Waugh run out	3
A. Border b Bracewell b Snedden	6
S. O'Donnell c Jones b Snedden	20
I. Healy b Snedden	6
P. Taylor not out	6
G. Campbell b Morrison	2
C. Rackemann not out	2
Extras (lb-17 w-3 nb-3)	23
Total (for eight wickets in 50 overs)	244
Did not bat: T. Alderman	
Fall of wickets: 1-3 2-148 3-153 4-190 5-214 6-229 7-233 8-240	
Bowling: Hadlee 10-1-43-2 (nb-2),	



Dean Jones salutes the crowd after completing his century. (Reuters wirephoto)



New Zealand's John Bracewell ducks a delivery from O'Donnell only to be bowled. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEW ZEALAND	
M. Crowe c Waugh b Rackemann	17
A. Jones c Border b Campbell	43
M. Greatbatch c Healy b Rackemann	0
K. Rutherford lbw b O'Donnell	20
S. Thompson b O'Donnell	1
G. Larsen b O'Donnell	1
Fall of wickets: 1-39 2-39 3-79 4-81 5-87 6-91 7-92 8-93 9-94	
Bowling: Alderman 6-2-27-2, Campbell 6-2-17-3, O'Donnell 6-0-13-5	

YBCC sail past OKCC

YOUNG BROTHERS Cricket Club defeated OKCC by 45 runs, at the Kuna Ground on Friday.

YBCC captain Afzal won the toss and elected to bat, opening through Mirza and Farooq, who were out soon. Razzaq also went back with the score only 14. Omer came in to bat with Ismail but the latter was bowled, making the score 30 for 4 wickets.

Amjed joined Umar and both started hammering all the OKCC bowlers at will. They took the score to 84 when Umar was adjudged lbw for 34 runs. Amjed kept on hammering the bowlers with Suja giving him support. Amjed played a marvelous innings hitting an unbeaten 109 runs. He hit 14 (fours) and two huge sixes.

Alam got three wickets, Ashraf two and Hussain one as YBCC piled up a huge score of 184 for the loss of 6 wickets in 25 overs.

OKCC started with Parveen and Dinesh but the latter was out in the second over. Wickets fell at regular intervals and OKCC were all out for 139 runs in the 24th over.

Morris, Hussain, Jawed, Shabbir and Altaf scored 21, 22, 17, 30 and 11 runs. Amjed once again performed well with the ball claiming 3 wickets. Umar got two while Farooq, Qutubuddin, Suja and Stanley got a scalp each. Amjed was declared Man of the Match for his all round performance.

Evergreen beat Forces

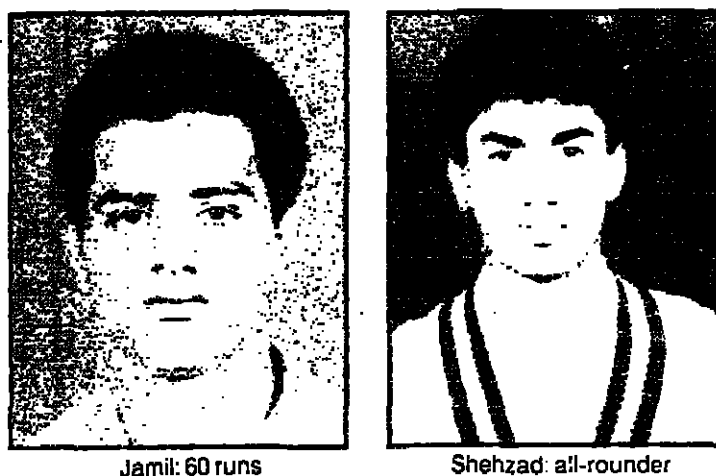
EVERGREEN Cricketers, led by Asad Baig, defeated Forces Cricket Club by 36 runs in a Hubert Thursday League match at the Ahmadi ground although the outcome had no effect on either of the teams.

Bating first, Evergreen amassed 187 for seven wickets in the allotted 24 overs. Jamil was the contributor-in-chief with well-made 60 runs. His innings contained a six and four hits to the boundary. Zahid chipped in with valuable 41 runs.

Teen-age all-rounder Shehzad hit 23 runs with the help of three fours. For Forces, Asim and Ilyas bagged two wickets while Albert, Zaheer and Ifthikhar picked a piece each.

Requiring 7.83 per over, Forces managed just 151 in their share of 24 overs and lost eight wickets in the process. Naem was the leading scorer with 60 runs. The major damage was done by leg-spinner Shehzad who bowled a tidy line and length and never allowed any batsman to take any liberty. He had a haul of four wickets after his 23 runs.

Ashraf Pindival was also on target and collected three wickets. Evergreen now face Hawks in the quarterfinal of Pat Kely Trophy on March 15 at the Ahmadi oval ground.



Jamil: 60 runs

Shehzad: all-rounder

Pirates fight back to hold Dodgers to draw

PIRATES held Dodgers to a 4-4 draw in their Kuwait Little League game over the weekend.

This week's games were played in the sunshine by those lucky teams who took to the field in the morning while those scheduled to play in the afternoon ran into wind and dust.

The Pirates and the Dodgers started off with a very exciting game. The first two innings were scoreless.

Both teams' defense proved awesome. The Dodgers were the first to score. Murad Ibrahim and Firas Al Ragom both got on base with a walk and were able to steal around the bases to home. The Pirates held the Dodgers in the fourth and fifth. In the sixth inning Haider Basravi and Hadi Alagari were walked and able to steal back to home.

The Pirates earned their first runs in the fourth inning when Mazin Shami, Firas Alani and Moid Tungekar were able to get on with singles. It was Brad Habib who brought in Mazin and Firas with his nice single.

The Giants and Rangers went at it next. These two major teams have really improved their skills this season. The Rangers' two runs were made by Nate Mooneyham and Rusty Stombaugh. Rusty hit Nate in and then stole around the base to score for the Rangers.

The Giants were hitting everything the Rangers threw at them. Ryo Sasaki had a nice double, as did Yoshihiko and Yasuhiko Tanabe. Saigo Mano had a double, a triple, and a single earning 4 RBIs. Masashi Nagashima had a triple



Three of the Little League players who took part in this week's games.

and 2 singles. The Giants won the game 14 to 2.

The Cardinals and Orioles had a beautiful game. The first three innings were scoreless for both teams. Then in the fourth inning Cory Fox hit a double and Jihad Sakhlleh hit a single bringing in



Cory Ahmed Fathalla came to the plate. Ahmed had not had a hit all season. The pitch came and Ahmed gave it his all. To Ahmed's surprise he connected and had a beautiful single bringing Jihad in to score. Billy Patterson scored in the fifth and Cory Fox scored the winning



run in the sixth. It was Justin Bollig's great hit that brought Cory around to home.

The Cardinals scored their first runs in the fifth when Faded Al Mithin hit a double and was brought in by Tariq Al Abdulmuh-sen. Austin Kurowaki hit a single

and was brought in by Paul Colbourne. Then in the sixth inning Talal Navarro hit a home run. Lucky for the Orioles there were no Cardinals on base.

At the end of six great innings Cardinals 3 Orioles 4. The two Senior teams really played some fantastic ball. The White Sox Shemlan Khajah had a good day. He hit a double and 3 singles. Robbie Mason hit a double in the second inning and in the sixth he hit a shot out to centre field only to be caught by Peter Punj of the Red Sox.

The Red Sox were holding their own defensively but they were having trouble hitting. Theo Haddad, Stanley Ehret, George Janini hit singles and Luis Alvarez. Sanjay Punj had the best hit a triple. The game went into an extra inning to break the tie but it wasn't to be. The final score Red Sox 7 White Sox 7.

Results

T-Ball	
Cubs	23 Braves 14
Twins	20 Athletics 12
Tigers	37 Royals 19
Minors	
Astros	6 Mariners 2
Blue Jays	10 Mets 12
Seniors	
Cardinals	3 Orioles 4
Pirates	4 Dodgers 4
Rangers	2 Giants 14
Home Run-hitters:	
White Sox	7 Red Sox 7
Home Run-hitters:	Talal Navarro, Cardinals; Gibran Hamdan, Astros; Hussain Al Julaij, Braves; Ahmed Al Belushi (2), Twins; Mishal Al Khabbaz, Mets; and Joey Pearce, Tigers.



The Orioles squad who beat Cardinals.



The victorious Tigers who mauled the Royals

SPORTS

Courier stuns Agassi in Scottsdale Classic

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 4, (Reuters): Andre Agassi played a competitive first set before folding against fellow-American Jim Courier yesterday in the final stage of round-robin play at the \$300,000 Scottsdale Classic tennis tournament.

The 7-6 6-0 defeat to Courier ruined Agassi's bid to play for today's first place prize of \$100,000. Instead, Aaron Krickstein, a 7-6 6-4 winner over Spain's Emilio Sanchez, reached the title match against fellow-American Tim Mayotte.

Mayotte beat compatriot Jim Grabb 6-4 6-1 in his last round-robin match to finish on top of his group. Courier and Sanchez will play for third and fourth place in the special eight-man event.

Agassi matched Courier's ferocious groundstrokes with equal power and velocity in the first set and neither player dropped a game until the 6-6 tiebreaker.

Both players, rivals from their days at the Bollesteri Academy in Florida, moved each other from side to side and forced the pace, but it was Courier who led all the way in the tiebreaker, taking a 4-1 lead after an Agassi forehand.

Agassi used a forehand winner and an ace to get back to 5-5, but Courier won the next two points to take the tiebreaker 7-5 with a forehand winner down the line.

After that, Agassi appeared to lose all interest in the match, smacking groundstrokes into the net and allowing winners from Courier to sail past him. The set was over in 17 minutes with Agassi winning just five points.

"When you get 3-0 down in a matter of minutes it's tough to keep the level of intensity," Agassi said. "If you give a 3-0 lead to anybody on the Tour they're going to win the match."

Gilbert clinches crown

ROTTERDAM, March 4, (UPI): Topseed Brad Gilbert of the United States finished this week's \$500,000 World Tennis Tournament today with a convincing 6-1, 6-3 win over Sweden's 7th-seeded Jonas Svensson.

Playing his first final of the year, Gilbert, the world's No. 4, displayed flawless tennis and seemed to return everything from Svensson's racket with the regularity of a stone wall.

The 23-year-old Swede, who had less success with his first serve than in yesterday's semifinals, tried everything in the book, but Gilbert appeared second-guessed him and was at the right spot even before the ball bounced.

With only one game to Svensson, ranked 29, the first set was an easy take-away for the 28-year-old American.

In the second set Gilbert continued his able play, broke twice in a row and held his own service to start off with a 3-0 lead, before Svensson broke back and won his own, reaching 3-2.

As Gilbert served the sixth game, the Swede had found the balance, playing a more aggressive game with top-spin as well as sliced backhands and breaking again to 3-3.

But the American, keeping perfect self-control, broke Svensson's serve in the 7th game, held his own in the next, and steered home to 6-3 in his opponent's serve game.

Today's win was Gilbert's second over Svensson in as many matches. In 1986 Gilbert won 6-3, 6-2 over the Swede in Vienna. Since 1984 Gilbert has been in 28 finals, 18 of which he has won, but only seven of the wins have been outside the United States.

Moves to persuade Baghdad

(Continued from Page 1)

by Oudai Saddam Hussein, son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, announced the pullout yesterday.

An Iraqi spokesman said Baghdad took the decision to withdraw "in view of the fact that sports have been used to divide the Arab nation instead of uniting it."

"Our participation was aimed at enhancing the brotherly spirit among Arabs... and not making sports a means to divide the Arab nation," the spokesman said.

The Iraqis have complained in the past that Gulf sports federations bribe referees to favour to their teams.

The Iraqi statement noted that Prince Faisal, chairman of the Saudi Arabian football federation and son of King Fahd, warned Iraq not to take part in the championships because of an "unhealthy atmosphere" in Kuwait.

The Baghdad statement, attributed to a source in the Iraqi Football Federation, said the Saudis plan to organise a separate tournament "to be the true and clean face of Arab sports away from groupings and axes."

Italian soccer

ROME, March 4, (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Atalanta	0	Bologna	2
Cesena	2	Bari	0
Fiorantina	0	Cremone	0
Verona	2	Udinese	0
Lazio	2	Internazionale	1
Lecco	0	Roma	2
AC Milan	2	Ascoli	1
Napoli	2	Genoa	0
Sampdoria	0	Juventus	1

British soccer

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): Results of an English football League Division One match today: Coventry 2, Aston Villa 0, (halftime 0-0).

Scores: Kevin Drinkell (52nd minute), David Smith (53rd). Attendance: 17,891.

Navratilova in final Sukova edges Frazier



Sukova: made to fight for victory

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 4, (Reuters): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova faced her toughest test of the year but came through to beat fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria yesterday to reach the final of the \$350,000 Indian Wells women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova, winner of her first two tournaments in 1990, beat Maleeva 7-6 6-1 for her 13th consecutive match victory of the year. She was to face third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in today's final.

Sukova served her way past 11th-seeded American Amy Frazier 7-5 6-4 in the other semifinal. Sukova blasted three aces and had 10 service winners as she won more than 60 per cent of the points on her first serve.

In contrast, Navratilova had difficulty with her serve through-

out the first set and was pushed to a tiebreaker.

Navratilova was in danger of losing her first set of the year as Maleeva refused to allow Navratilova to attack her second serve and kept the world number two pinned to the baseline. But at 2-2 in the tiebreaker, Navratilova served two aces and then swept the last five points.

Navratilova raced to a 5-0 lead in the third set as Maleeva became tentative. "She hits the ball well and it's tough to do anything with it. My serve wasn't the best, but once I got it going in the tiebreak, I knew I was home free," Navratilova said.

Sukova, who is ranked 10th, controlled her service game against the 27th-ranked Frazier and broke the teenager once in each set.

Kasparov wins Linares title



Kasparov ponders over a move. (Reuters wirephoto)

LINALES, Spain, March 4, (Reuters): World champion Garry Kasparov won the finals of the Linares Chess Tournament yesterday thanks to a series of blunders by Spanish grandmaster Nigel Short.

The Soviet champion and Short had been heading for a draw which would have made the Soviet Union's Boris Gelfand winner of the tournament because he had scored more wins.

But Short, who later said he was exhausted, committed errors that gave Kasparov victory.

Kasparov's win, after 61 moves of a tarash defence in six hours and 61 moves, does not however increase his world ranking of 2,800 points.

Masur advances to final

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 4, (Reuters): Sixth-seeded Wally Masur of Australia overwhelmed unseeded American Glenn Layendecker 6-3 6-2 yesterday to reach the final of the \$250,000 Memphis Indoor Tennis Tournament.

Masur was to meet unseeded Michael Stich of West Germany in today's final. Stich eliminated Gary Muller of South Africa 7-5 7-6 in an earlier semifinal.

Stich will be playing his first tournament final, while Masur seeks his fourth career championship and first since winning in Newport in July 1988.

Masur has a style familiar to

Australian professionals — he is a classical serve-and-volleyer, who covers the court with grace and ease.

The Australian, who lost only one set on his way to the final, frustrated the 63rd-ranked Layendecker. He kept the American, who also prefers to serve-and-volley, pinned to the baseline with his aggressive tactics.

"I got on top early and that really helps," said the 26-year-old Masur.

Masur's road to the finals was cleared by the early exit of both top seed Stefan Edberg and second seed Michael Chang.

"Those guys got bumped out early — they had some injuries," Masur said. "This shows the depth of the men's tour. They left a hole for me to go through."

Layendecker admitted he was thoroughly outplayed by Masur. "He beat me pretty much all around," said Layendecker, who ousted Chang in the second round. "He served and did things well, so that was physical. And he had me struggling on my service games. That's mental. He pretty much dominated."

Stich's big serve took him to victory over Muller. Stich, 21, even dictated play off his second serve.

Kuwait rally champion to drive Pajero

KUWAIT: Eid Falah the reigning Kuwait National Rally champion has confirmed that he will drive a Mitsubishi Pajero in the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge. The talented 28-year old Kuwaiti who recently added the Kuwait four-wheel-drive championship title to his list of achievements is a real contender to win the coveted 4x4 title.

"I drove the Pajero last year in the Qatar and Kuwait BP rallies and was very impressed," said Falah. "I am delighted that Marlboro have backed me again this year."

Falah joins defending title holder Abbas Al Mosawi (Qatar) and Mamdouh Khayat (Saudi

Arabia) who also drive for Ralliart Middle East, the UAE based rally wing of Mitsubishi.

"Eid is a very fast driver and a real addition to our team," said Al Mosawi who won the Marlboro Desert Challenge for the past two seasons.

Teams from the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are contesting the 1990 series which first started in Kuwait in 1987, and has quickly grown to become a highly popular series. The current leaders after the BP 2000 Trophy, Dubai are Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum (UAE) in a Land Rover (Group 1) and Hamed Bin Eid Al Thani (Qatar) in a Nissan Patrol (Group 2).

Anders breaks 12-minute barrier for record

GLASGOW, March 4, (Reuters): East German Beate Anders became the first woman to break the 12-minute barrier for the 3,000 metres walk today when she shattered the world record at the European Indoor Athletics Championships.

Anders clocked 11 minutes 59.36 seconds to better the previous mark of 12:01.65 set by Australian Kerry Saxby exactly a year ago at the Budapest World Indoor Championships.

"I knew when I went in to the final lap that I would get the record," Anders said.

The title was East Germany's first of the championships. Anders said yesterday's surprise defeat of team mate Ulf Timmermann, the Olympic shot put champion, had provided extra incentive to do well.

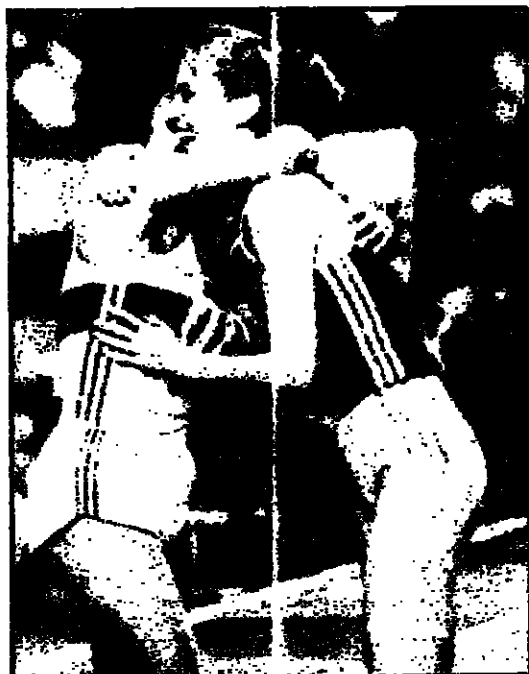
Anders and Timmermann are members of the same club in Berlin.

The blonde East German made no contest of today's race, striding smoothly and rhythmically to victory 50 metres ahead of Soviet pair Olga Krishtop and Vera Makolova.

Both the Russians were later disqualified for not maintaining contact with the track at all times and Italians Ileana Salvador and Anna Rita Sidoti were elevated to second and third respectively.

Anders now hopes to meet Saxby at the Goodwill Games in Seattle in July.

Lindorf Christie, Europe's premier sprinter, won his third gold medal of the year yesterday with a convincing 60 metres vic-



Anders (right) is hugged by a teammate after setting the record. (Reuters wirephoto)

tor.

Christie, who won the Commonwealth 100 metres title in Auckland before anchoring the England sprint relay team to victory, had not intended to compete here.

But the European 100 metres champion and Olympic silver medalist decided late on Friday to try for a third European indoor title after talking to British officials and British Amateur Athletic Board promotions



Beate Anders stands on the victor's podium after the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

officer Andy Norman.

"Andy Norman made me feel very guilty," Christie said. "I didn't sleep well last night but once I had made up my mind I got on with it."

Eight titles were decided on the opening day of the two-day meeting with a major upset on both the track and in the field.

Dutchwoman Nelli Fiercooman's bid for an unprecedented sixth consecutive European indoor 60 metres title

was thwarted by West German Ulrike Sarvari.

Sarvari sped to victory in 7.10 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year, while France's Laurence Billy snatched the silver ahead of Fiercooman. Billy clocked 7.13 while Fiercooman, the world indoor champion, was 0.01 of a second further back.

Klaus Bodenmueller, an Austrian soldier, upset Timmermann to win the men's shot put with a personal indoor best of 21.03 metres.

Timmermann, who won both the European and world indoor titles last year, was second with 20.43.

"The shot put of the decade," a euphoric Bodenmueller said.

Christie had been unhappy with the Kelvin Hall track after the Britain-East Germany meeting last week.

He was still less than enchanted after clocking 6.56 in yesterday's final.

"I think it's soft," he said. "They need to do the surface."

Christie now plans to run in Athens on Wednesday with a possible attempt on American Lee McRae's world record of 6.50.

"I'm going to win first," he said. "But, sure, a world record is possible."

He will also run in the United States as part of his ambition to become the world's number one sprinter this year.

West Germany's Heike Henkel won the women's high jump with a leap of 2.00 but failed to improve her year's best of 2.01.

Galina Chistyakova of the Soviet Union, the Olympic bronze medalist, took the women's long jump title with 6.85.

West German Claudia Losch, the 1984 Olympic champion, won the women's shot put with 20.64 metres.

Dutchwoman Ely van Hulst retained her 3,000 metres title just ahead of fast-finishing Romanian Margareta Keszegi.

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Klaus Bodenmueller, an Austrian soldier, upset Timmermann to win the men's shot put with a



Omani goalkeeper saves a penalty shot.

Qatar outplay Oman

VETERAN striker Mansour Muflih scored two goals yesterday to help Qatar beat Oman 4-2 in a thrilling 10th Arab Gulf Cup match, in which the Brazilian referee awarded three penalties.

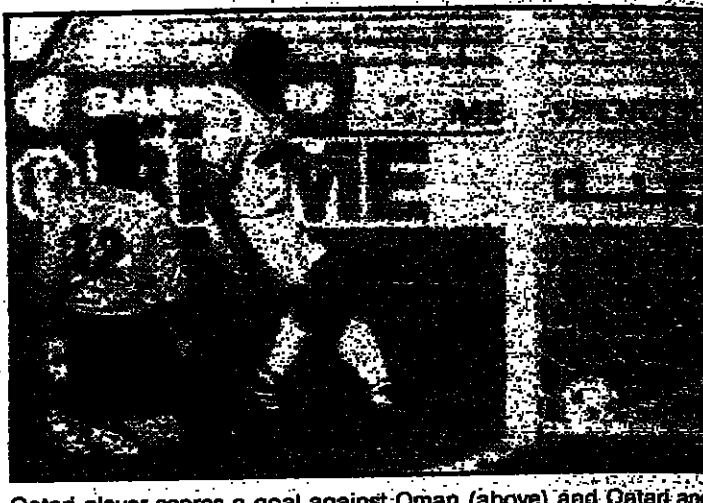
Mansour, who played only in the second half when his team was trailing 1-0, scored a spectacular goal after five minutes after a solo effort. He added a second in the 30th minute of the second half.

The Omanis began the scoring, with a goal 4 minutes into the game when Qatari defender Al Saiti brought down an Omani striker in the penalty area. Helal Hameed confidently converted the kick. The Qataris had the opportunity to draw level in the 20th minute when Omani goalkeeper brought down Adel Khamees in the box. The goalkeeper made amendments for his mistake by making a good save from Yousef Adsan's weak shot.

The Qataris continued to press hard looking for the equaliser but always lacked the finishing touch. Adel Khamees scored the equaliser for Qatar after four minutes of the second half. Mansour Muflih made it 2-1 for Qatar in a spectacular fashion when he got a long ball on the edge of the area, took it on the chest, passed the defender and lopped it powerfully over the goalkeeper.

Oman's Tayeb Abdel Nour scored the equaliser after only 10 minutes. A Qatari defender failed to quickly clear an easy ball and Abdel Nour snatched it and netted from close range.

Mansour Muflih again displayed his scoring qualities when he reached a parallel pass and scored the third goal for his team



Qatari player scores a goal against Oman (above) and Qatari and Omani players fight for the ball (below). (Photos by Ahmad Buri)



Qatari player scores a goal against Oman (above) and Qatari and Omani players fight for the ball (below). (Photos by Ahmad Buri)

several scoring opportunities. In the 37th minute they made use of the two points when an Omani defender stopped the ball with his hand in the box and the referee awarded a penalty. Mahmoud Sufi this time made no mistake to make it 4-2 for Qatar.

Marshall to miss second cricket Test

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 4, (Reuters): West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall is expected to miss the second Test against England in Guyana next week after chipping a bone in his index finger during the third one-day cricket international yesterday.

Marshall injured his left index finger while trying to hold a fierce return catch from England's Allan Lamb

during the match, which West Indies won by three wickets.

He could be sidelined for two weeks.

"There is no question of Marshall going into a test match with his hand in plaster so he is almost certain to miss the Guyana Test," a spokesman for the West Indies Cricket Board of control said.

Marshall's chipped bone is the

latest injury to hit West Indies, who lost the first Test by nine wickets on Thursday.

Fellow fast bowler Curtly Ambrose is likely to miss the entire Test series because of a haemorrhoid, middle order batsman Gus Logie has an injured finger and opener Gordon Greenidge pulled out of yesterday's match with back trouble. (See page 19)



Fiji triumph

Ireimi Tawake of Fiji stamps on Masami Horikoshi (bottom) of Japan while rushing for a score in a rugby union Test match in Tokyo yesterday. Fiji crushed Japan 32-6. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Editor-in-Chief:
Ahmed Al Jarrah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Sharwaik.
P.O. Box 2270,
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Telex:
22332 KT

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